

RESEARCH NOTE

THE ADJECTIVE CHECK LIST AS A PERSONALITY
ASSESSMENT TECHNIQUE WITH STUDENTS

V. R. Shaw
Big Spring State Hospital¹

The Adjective Check List (ACL) was administered to 51 undergraduate students at Wichita State University, Wichita, Kansas. Of the 24 ACL (Gough, 1965) scales, two were eliminated due to the possibility of linear dependence. These were "number of adjectives checked" and "unfavorable adjectives checked." Product-moment correlations were calculated among the remaining 22 scales obtained from the ACL proceeding to a factor analysis.

Eigenvalues were computed for the correlation matrix. The Scree test (Cattell, 1966) indicated six factors. An iterative principal axis solution was applied to the correlation matrix until the communalities stabilized in the sixth decimal place. A Kaiser Varimax Orthogonal Rotation (Harman, 1967) was applied to the factor matrix followed by fifteen graphical oblique rotations (Cattell, 1963), resulting in a 54.55 percent .10 width hyperplane.²

The most significant finding of this study was that in examining the factor structure of the 22 ACL scales it was found that six factors helped clarify the multidimensional characteristics of the instrument. The factor analysis demonstrated that the structure of the ACL in this sample yielded six dimensions related to personality assessment with students. These factors were: (a) Social Undesirability; (b) Extroversion-Introversion; (c) Counseling Readiness; (d) Intelligence; (e) Independence; (f) Cautious Self-centeredness.

These are not conclusive results because of the limited sample size and may be further clarified by additional research utilizing more measures of personality. It was found that the ACL is a difficult measure to factor analyze due to the possibility of linear dependencies and lack of a hyperplane count in the .10 width. Therefore, further research will be needed to demonstrate usage of the ACL as a personality assessment technique with students.

NOTES

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²For such data as the intercorrelations, V_o , V_m , R_f , etc., write Virginia R. Shaw, Psychology Department, Big Spring State Hospital, Big Spring, Texas 79720.

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