Translation of Measures: Cultural Sensitivity and Lessons Learned.

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Background

- Increased interest in global research in nursing.
- When significant cultural and linguistic differences, researchers need to consider the cultural context.
- Goal of translation: develop cross-culturally appropriate, psychometrically sound measures.
# Psychometric Properties of Measures in the Resilience in Illness Model

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Measurement</th>
<th>Authors</th>
<th>Reliability/validity</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Symptom Distress Scale</td>
<td>Ruth McCorkle</td>
<td>0.82 (Cronbach’s alpha) one-month retest reliability 0.78. Content, construct, and criterion validity were supported for the SDS</td>
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<tr>
<td>Family Adaptability and Cohesion Scale II</td>
<td>Olson, McCubbin, Barnes, Larsen, Muxen, &amp; Wilson</td>
<td>0.9 (Cronbach’s alpha)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Parent-Adolescent Communication scale</td>
<td></td>
<td>0.89 (Cronbach’s alpha)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Family Strength Scale</td>
<td></td>
<td>0.83 (Cronbach’s alpha)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Perceived Social Support- Family</td>
<td>Procidano &amp; Heller</td>
<td>0.91 (Cronbach’s alpha)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Perceived Social Support- Friends.</td>
<td></td>
<td>0.88 (Cronbach’s alpha)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Perceived Social Support- Health care providers</td>
<td></td>
<td>0.89 (Cronbach’s alpha)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jalowiec Coping Scale- revised</td>
<td>Anne Jalowiec</td>
<td>0.81 (Cronbach’s alpha)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hearth Hope Index</td>
<td>Kay Herth</td>
<td>0.80 (Cronbach’s alpha) 2-week test-retest reliability of 0.91 Construct validity was supported</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mishel Uncertainty in Illness Scale</td>
<td>Merle H. Mishel</td>
<td>Reliability and validity were established in diverse studies; 0.88 (Cronbach’s alpha) with support for construct and convergent validity.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Reed spiritual perspective scale</td>
<td>Pamela Reed</td>
<td>0.93 (Cronbach’s alpha)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reed self-transcendence scale</td>
<td></td>
<td>0.75 (Cronbach’s alpha)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Resilience in Illness scale</td>
<td>Joan E Haase</td>
<td>0.81 (Cronbach’s alpha)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Translation Processes: Step 1

Culturally appropriate measures in four Asian countries, including China, Japan, Korea, and Taiwan.

First step
- Find translated measures for each country

Second step
- Examined psychometric properties of existing translated measures

Third step
- Contact the authors/developers to acquire permission to translate.
Translation Processes
Step 2

- Review current guidelines for translating measures into different languages.

Most common recommendations:
  - 1) Forward-translation.
  - 2) Experts’ panel review.
  - 3) Backward-translation.
  - 4) Pre-test measures and cognitive interview.
  - 5) Development of final version.

Given some variations in available resources, each country followed or adapted these common recommendations.
Translation Processes
Step 3

During the process we focused on:

Enhancing cultural adaptation:

- Emphasize translating the main concepts of items in each measure rather than translating word-for-word.
- Knowledge of Western and Eastern cultural differences in developing culturally appropriate measures.
Challenges and Benefits While Translating Measures

Challenges:

- Translating reverse items in measurements - e.g., Resilience in Illness Model Scale (Taiwan).
- Different perceptions about spirituality - e.g., Difference between North American and Chinese.
- Difference in XXXXX - e.g., My vs. Our (Korea)

Benefit:

- Usefulness of conversations among the team to identify intra- and extra-cultural differences during the translation process
Cultural difference in Taiwan

Resilience in Illness scale

- Item 4 (original):
  *It doesn’t matter to me whether or not I am handling my situation well.*

Resilience in Illness scale

- Item 4 (modified in Taiwan):
  *It doesn’t matter to me to handle my situation well.*

A minor change because “doesn’t matter” and “whether or not” are double negative meaning in a sentence. It is difficult for adolescents in Taiwan to answer this item.

**(Drs. Chin-Mi Chen and Li-Min Wu)**
Lessons Learned

- Measurement translation is not a simple word-to-word translation.
- Translation requires cultural and contextual understanding.
- Examples.
  - Interpersonal relationships and topics: hierarchy in family members and health care providers; communication about serious/life threatening illness).
  - Linguistic structural difference.
  - Generational gap in same language.
Important Steps

- Use at least two translators.
  - One familiar with the terminology and the content of the area covered by the measures,
  - One knowledgeable about the idiomatic expressions commonly used in targeted languages and target population.

- Resolve discrepancies and enhance cultural adaptation
  - Need for diverse team expertise
    - Expertise in linguistics and instrumentation
    - Diverse cultural backgrounds and disciplines.
Important Steps (cont.)

Back translation process to enhance cultural adaptation

- Focus on cultural context, rather than word-by-word change.
Acknowledgement

- We thank our study site partners in each country who helped us conduct our study.

We can add other countries' study site here! Please add your own country.
References


