

DIFFERENTIAL ITEM FUNCTIONING OF THE CHINESE VERSION OF THE SOMATOSENSORY AMPLIFICATION SCALE AMONG ADOLESCENTS ACROSS GRADE LEVELS

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Introduction: Tam et al. (2011)[1] recently reported the invariance of the one-factor model of the Chinese version of the Somatosensory Amplification Scale (ChSAS). The objective of this paper is to further examine the item-level equivalence of the ChSAS in a sample of Chinese adolescents across grade levels.

Methods: The ChSAS was administered to 500 Chinese adolescents. Differential item functioning (DIF) analysis was performed to identify any uniform and non-uniform differences on the 10 ChSAS items among adolescents across different grade levels.

Results: After a Bonferroni adjustment of p value ($=0.0007$, i.e., $0.05/70$), results of DIF analyses showed that there is no uniform (all F s ranging from 0.17-2.15, $ps>0.09$) or non-uniform (all F s ranging from 0.47-1.76, $ps>0.02$) difference on the 10 ChSAS items.

Conclusions: The four different grade level groups used the scale comparably, without showing any difference on item properties. These findings further substantiate the use of ChSAS as a valid and reliable instrument among adolescents across grade levels.

[1] Tam, B. K. H. & Wong, W. S. (2011). Confirmatory factor analysis and sample invariance of the Chinese version of Somatosensory Amplification Scale (ChSAS) among Chinese adolescents. Paper presented at the 12th European Congress of Psychology, Istanbul, Turkey, 2011.