

THE VALIDITY AND RELIABILITY OF TURKISH VERSION OF THE THEISTIC FAITH SCALE

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ABSTRACT

The aim of this study is to examine validity and reliability of the Turkish version of the Theistic Faith Scale (Francis, Brockett, & Village, 2013). The sample of this study consisted of 266 undergraduate students. The results of confirmatory factor analysis indicated that the 7 items and uni-dimensional theistic faith model was well fit ($\chi^2= 18.05$, $df= 11$, $RMSEA= .050$, $GFI= .98$, $CFI= .99$, $AGFI= .95$, $IFI= .99$, and $SRMR= .025$). The internal consistency reliability coefficient of the scale was .83. The corrected item-total correlations ranged from .33 to .67. Overall findings demonstrated that this scale had high validity and reliability scores.

Key Words: Theistic faith, validity, reliability, confirmatory factor analysis.

INTRODUCTION

Throughout the history of mankind people have come to believe different theistic faith and different religion have expressed (e.g., Buddhism, Christianity, Hinduism, Islam, Judaism, and Sikhism) with many aspects within the forms (say, beliefs, behaviours, and affiliation). Theistic faith is a multi-dimensional construct and researchers try to make clear this concept with different approaches. They have assessed various dimension of theistic faith in different ways and examined theistic faith as practice (what people do), belief (what people believe), attitude (how people feel about their religion), and orientation (what motivates their faith). In these approaches, attitudinal dimension appeared particularly attractive than the others because of accessing attitudes toward theistic faith amount to know about religion in an individuals' life (Francis, Brockett, & Village, 2013; Williams, Billington, & Francis, 2010).

There are a plenty of studies conducted on theistic faith which demonstrated its positive and negative associations with different variables. In these studies it was found that higher levels of theistic faith positively related with rejection of abortion (Arney & Trescher, 1976; Barnartt & Harris, 1982), conservatism (Lewis & Maltby, 2000), dogmatism (Francis & Greer, 2001), general health (Francis, Robbins, Lewis, Quigley, & Wheeler, 2004), paranormal belief (Williams, Francis, & Robbins, 2006), psychological adjustment and well-being (Francis & Robbins, 2005; Farnell, Hopkinson, Jarvis, Martineau, & Hein, 2006; Schludermann, Schludermann, Needham, & Mulenga, 2001), purpose in life (French & Joseph, 1999) and negatively related alcohol consumption (Brown, Parks, Zimmerman, & Phillips, 2001; Mason & Windle, 2002).

Briefly, since theistic faith influences deeply individuals' social, psychological, and physical life, it is very important to measure this construct. Therefore the purpose of this study is to adapt into Turkish and to examine the validity and reliability of the Theistic Faith Scale (Francis et al., 2013).

METHOD

Participant

Participants were 266 undergraduate students (143 (54 %) were female, 123 (46%) were male) who were enrolled in Sakarya University, in Turkey.

Measures

Theistic Faith Scale. The Theistic Faith Scale (Francis, Brockett, & Village, 2013) is a self-report questionnaire with 7 items rated on a 5-point scale. High scores indicate higher levels of Theistic Faith. The Cronbach alpha internal consistency reliability coefficient of the scale was .96.

Translation and adaptation process

Primarily the scale was translated into Turkish by two academicians who know English well. After that the Turkish form was back-translated into English and examined the consistency between the Turkish and English forms. Then Turkish form has been reviewed by four academicians from educational sciences department. Finally they discussed the Turkish form and along with some corrections this scale was prepared for validity and reliability analyses

Procedure

Permission for participation of students was obtained from related chief departments and students voluntarily participated in research. Completion of the scales was anonymous and there was a guarantee of confidentiality. The scales were administered to the students in groups in the classrooms. Prior to administration of scales, all participants were told about purposes of the study. In this study confirmatory factor analysis (CFA) was executed to confirm the original scale's structure in Turkish culture and Cronbach' Alpha reliability coefficient was calculated to examine the reliability. Data were analyzed using LISREL 8.54 and SPSS 15 package programs.

RESULTS

Construct Validity

Confirmatory factor analysis demonstrated that the uni-dimensional Theistic Faith model was well fit ($\chi^2= 18.05$, $df= 11$, $RMSEA= .050$, $GFI= .98$, $CFI= .99$, $AGFI= .95$, $IFI= .99$, and $SRMR= .025$). Factor loads of items belonging Turkish version of Theistic Faith Scale are presented in Figure 1.

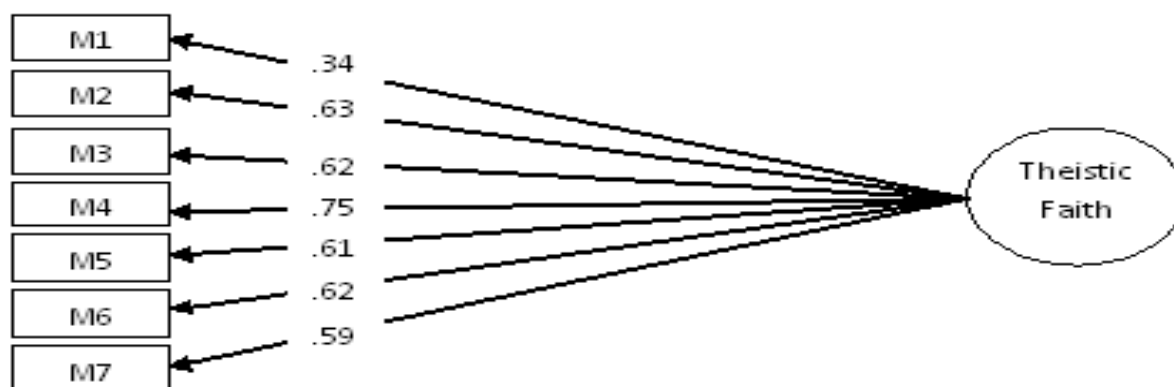


Figure 1: Factor Loadings for the Turkish version of the Theistic Faith Scale

Item Analysis and Reliability

The Cronbach alpha internal consistency reliability coefficients of the Turkish form were .83 for overall scale. The corrected item-total correlations ranged from .33 to .67.

DISCUSSION

The purpose of this study was to translate Theistic Faith Scale into Turkish and to examine its psychometric properties. Overall findings demonstrated that this scale had acceptable validity and reliability scores. Further studies that will examine the convergent validity of the Theistic Faith Scale are important for its measurement force. Also the temporal stability of the Theistic Faith Scale may be calculated using test re-test method.

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