

ATTITUDES TO SEX, PERSONALITY AND LIE SCALE SCORES¹

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Summary.—8 sex-attitude items were found to have appreciable loadings on a psychoticism factor and a lie factor for random population samples of 228 men and 263 women. These factors were independent of each other, and of extraversion and neuroticism. The bearing of these results on the problem of dissimulation ("faking good") on the sex attitude items is discussed.

In a series of articles, Eysenck (1971a, 1971b, 1971c) has described the relation between personality factors, extraversion, neuroticism, and psychoticism, on the one hand, and attitudes toward sex on the other. These studies left open the truthfulness of responding, and the present study seeks to answer this question by using a Lie scale, taken from the EPI (Eysenck & Eysenck, 1964) and consisting of 18 items. It was hypothesized that if sex-attitude questions were answered truthfully, then they would have low loadings on the Lie scale; high loadings would suggest defensive or "fake good" behaviour. A random sample of the available population, consisting of 228 male and 263 female Ss, filled in the questionnaire; these Ss had been assembled by a market research firm for other purposes and filled in the questionnaire between other, commercial duties. The population thus contrasted with that previously used, which was comprised of university students. Apart from the Lie scale the questionnaire contained 47 psychoticism items, similar in kind to those used on previous occasions (Eysenck & Eysenck, 1968, 1969) and 12 extraversion and 12 neuroticism items, taken from the EPI. Interest centered on the possibility of using sex-attitude items as part of the Psychoticism scale, as in our previous study (Eysenck, 1971b) correlations with psychoticism had been the outstanding characteristic of many sex-attitude items. Many of these items were too explicit to be used with a random audience, but the following 8 items were used in the present investigation: (1) Do you think that sex without love is highly unsatisfactory? (2) Do you think people must necessarily be in love to enjoy love-making with each other? (3) Would it bother you if the person you married were not a virgin? (4) Do you think it is all right to seduce a person who is old enough to know what he is doing? (5) Would you object to pornographic writings being freely published? (6) Do you think that marriage is old-fashioned and should be done away with? (7) Do you disapprove of censorship of films and plays? (8) Do you think that "wife swapping parties" are disgusting? The last of these items had not been included in the original questionnaire; some of the others

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TABLE 1
LOADINGS ON P AND L OF 8 SEX-ATTITUDE ITEMS

| Items | Original P Correlations | | P Loadings; New Sample | | L Loadings; New Sample | |
|---------|-------------------------|--------|------------------------|--------|------------------------|--------|
| | Male | Female | Male | Female | Male | Female |
| 1 (2) | -.17 | -.26 | -.01 | -.28 | .49 | .53 |
| 2 (-13) | .12 | .22 | -.07 | -.22 | .59 | .56 |
| 3 (-26) | .10 | .23 | -.18 | .03 | .25 | .42 |
| 4 (79) | .18 | .23 | .05 | .14 | -.45 | -.26 |
| 5 (-84) | .18 | .15 | -.12 | -.14 | .45 | .48 |
| 6 (89) | .23 | .12 | .43 | .24 | -.18 | -.03 |
| 7 (91) | .16 | .22 | .24 | .21 | -.38 | -.17 |
| 8 (-) | | | -.27 | -.43 | .56 | .42 |

were slightly reworded, so that items 2, 3 and 5 now require an answer in the opposite direction in order to give correlations with psychoticism having the same sign as before. Results of a factor analysis (principal components, followed by Promax rotation) disclosed four clear-cut factors, labelled psychoticism, extraversion, neuroticism and lie; the sex-attitude items had sizeable loadings only on psychoticism and lie, and these loadings are given in Table 1, together with the correlations of these items in the original study with psychoticism (no Lie scale had been used then, so that these correlations are not available).

It will be seen that the sex-attitude items have loadings on the psychoticism factor which are similar in size and identical in sign, to the originally observed correlations between these items and psychoticism. The numbers of the items in the original scale are given in parenthesis, so that readers can check details in the original paper (Eysenck, 1971b). The minus sign preceding numbers 13, 36 and 84 is intended to remind the reader that these were reversed in the rewording, so that the signs of the correlations are opposite for the two samples. Considering the difference between the two samples, the agreement between the two sets of correlations is reasonable.

The last two columns give the loadings of the 8 items on the Lie scale; it will be seen that almost all the items have very high loadings on this scale and that these loadings are much higher than the loading on psychoticism. This suggests that dissimulation ("faking good") may have played a considerable part in the process of answering these questions. There are reasons to doubt this interpretation. Table 2 gives the intercorrelations between the factors: it will be seen

TABLE 2
INTERCORRELATIONS BETWEEN PERSONALITY FACTORS N, E, P AND L, FOR MALE AND FEMALE Ss

| | NL | NP | NE | LP | LE | PE |
|-------|-----|-----|------|------|------|------|
| Men | .09 | .01 | -.08 | -.00 | -.09 | .02 |
| Women | .03 | .09 | -.12 | .14 | -.15 | -.05 |

that these are quite independent, and in particular that Neuroticism and Lie scales are orthogonal. This observation is relevant to the question of the interpretation of the Lie scale. Michaelis and Eysenck (1971) have shown that as motivation to dissimulate increases in a population, lie scores go up, neuroticism scores go down, and the correlation between the two becomes more negative. The failure of these scales to show such a high, negative correlation suggests that dissimulation played little part in the answering behaviour of this group and that the correct interpretation may lie rather in the personality structure of high lie scorers when motivation to "fake good" is low. We have surmised that such people are immature, somewhat dull, and orthodox in their beliefs; such personality traits might give rise to the answer pattern actually observed. Clearly this interpretation is speculative at the moment; further work is required to support or reject it.

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