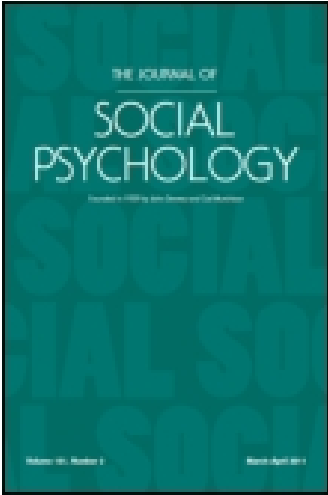


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DIFFERENCES IN PERSONALITY BETWEEN
JAPANESE AND ENGLISH*

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SUMMARY

Results are reported of testing male and female university students ($N = 1957$), male and female schoolchildren ($N = 6116$) and male and female psychotic inpatients ($N = 420$) in both Japan and England with the PEN Personality Inventory, which purports to measure the independent personality dimensions of Psychoticism (P), Extraversion (E), and Neuroticism (N). The hypothesis tested was based on the findings of R. Lynn, derived from an intercorrelational study of demographic data, that Japanese, of all the populations tested, were the most introverted and the second most neurotic. No predictions were made for P. The results indicated support for the hypothesis; Japanese scored very significantly higher than English on N and also on P; they scored lower on E. Japanese psychotics, like English, scored higher on P than normals, but again the Japanese psychotics scored higher than the English on this variable. The results indicate support for Lynn's findings, and may also be regarded as supporting the validity of his methodology. The data do not throw any light on the question of the origin of the observed differences, which might be due to genetic, cultural, or joint genetic and cultural influences.

A. INTRODUCTION

It is widely believed that there are marked national differences; these usually refer to personality traits, such as extraversion or neuroticism. While supported by casual observation, these beliefs have little empirical foundation, there being considerable difficulties in providing acceptable evidence. Recently, Lynn (6) has suggested a novel method of investigating

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this problem, by choosing demographic, epidemiological, and other statistical population information on selected nations, on the basis of carefully stated hypotheses concerning the relevance of the information in question to personality characteristics; these statistics are then intercorrelated and factor analyzed to test the hypotheses in question. Verification of the underlying hypotheses enables the countries to be ranked on the basis of the hypothetical personality variables indicated by the information analyzed. In his most recent study, Lynn and Hampson (7) discovered two major factors which were identified with extraversion (E) and neuroticism (N). Of the countries considered, Japan appeared as the most introverted and the second-most neurotic; Great Britain appeared as the second-most stable and intermediate with respect to extraversion. A direct comparison of these two countries on the basis of questionnaire answers would, therefore, be expected to show higher N and lower E values for Japan, as compared with Britain. Such a study would confirm Lynn's conclusions using an entirely different method and, if confirmation were found, would serve to validate both methods.

B. METHOD

The present study used a new personality questionnaire, the PEN, which was developed from earlier inventories such as the EPI (3) and the MPI (2) by the addition of a third personality dimension (P for psychoticism) to the earlier ones of the E and N. The PEN was an early version of the final inventory, now published as the EPQ or Eysenck Personality Questionnaire (4). The P scale in the PEN had certain defects, such as correlating with the N scale, which were removed in later versions; the development of the scale, and its validation, have been documented elsewhere (5). The PEN was administered to large sections of the British population, including student samples and psychiatric populations. A Junior version was administered to large samples of the child population; these form the original standardization data for the PEN and are here used for comparison with similar data collected in Japan.

Our first comparison concerned university students, mean age 20; these were 284 male and 273 female Japanese students, and 700 male and 700 female English students. Our second comparison was between psychotic groups; there were 53 male and 57 female Japanese psychotics, and 156 male and 154 female English psychotics (mainly schizophrenics.) Our third comparison was between schoolchildren. The British sample contained 2819 boys and 2648 girls, aged from 7 to 15 inclusive; the smallest age

group had 167 children in it, the largest 463. There were no significant age trends in this sample, so that all differences were tested against the mean values for the whole sample. Numbers of the Japanese children for the different grades were as follows: 42, 42, 36, 40, 45, 34, 44, 47 for the boys, and 36, 38, 45, 44, 42, 36, 43, 35 for the girls.

C. RESULTS

1. *University Students in Japan and England*

Means and *SDs* for the university student samples for the two countries are given separately for males and females, in view of the sex differences observed in the original work (5). Results are shown in Table 1. It will be clear that the Japanese are much more introverted, much more neurotic, and much higher on P than are the English; all the differences, for both sexes, are well beyond the .001 level of significance. In both countries, the males are more extraverted, less neurotic, and higher on P; thus frequently observed Western sex differences recur in Japan, even though all differences are smaller for the Japanese groups for both N and P. These results are in good conformity with prediction.

2. *Psychotic Adults in Japan and England*

Sex differences between psychotic groups in both countries being slight, the groups were thrown together to form a single psychotic group for each country. Results are shown in Table 1. It will be clear that psychotics in both countries have much higher P scores than normals; this, of course, is as expected by virtue of the nature of the scale. The Japanese psychotics are very significantly higher on P than are the English psychotics. They are also significantly higher on P than are the English psychotics. They are also significantly higher on N, but the differences on E are small and nonsignificant. These results bear out the higher degree of psychoticism in Japan, as compared with England.

Correlations between the scales are only notable for the N and P scales; as in the original English samples, so here also these are positive and significant ($r = .47, .55, \text{ and } .72$ for the male and female student samples and for the psychotics). These values are higher but along the same lines as were the English values; indeed, it was because of the high intercorrelations between these scales that modifications were made to the PEN which led to the construction of the EPQ. Broadly, the two nations show considerable similarity in the structure of the scale relationships.

Our results for adults bear out Lynn's prediction. This may be in part a

TABLE 1
 MEANS AND *SDs* ON PSYCHOTICISM (P), EXTRAVERSION (E), AND NEUROTICISM (E)
 FOR JAPANESE AND ENGLISH UNIVERSITY STUDENTS, PSYCHOTIC INPATIENTS,
 AND SCHOOLCHILDREN.

Group	Grade	P		E		N	
		Mean	<i>SD</i>	Mean	<i>SD</i>	Mean	<i>SD</i>
University students							
Japanese							
Male		5.9	3.2	10.9	4.3	12.6	3.9
Female		4.8	2.8	10.3	3.8	12.8	3.7
English							
Male		2.4	2.6	13.2	3.9	9.4	4.4
Female		1.7	1.8	12.7	3.4	10.5	3.7
Psychotics							
Japanese							
English		7.3	3.4	10.9	3.5	10.5	4.7
English							
English		4.9	3.5	10.2	4.5	9.6	5.0
English schoolchildren							
Boys							
Boys		9.16	3.15	15.20	3.32	10.22	4.23
Girls		6.54	2.75	15.36	3.15	11.69	4.32
Japanese schoolchildren							
Boys (primary school)							
	2	16.52	5.20	16.67	2.72	13.05	2.79
	3	14.36	5.78	15.69	3.62	12.17	4.16
	4	14.19	3.72	17.52	2.88	12.50	4.25
	5	13.31	3.69	17.25	3.58	10.75	4.43
	6	11.49	4.13	15.93	3.14	10.40	4.77
Boys (secondary school)							
	7	15.44	4.19	14.50	3.96	14.89	2.17
	8	13.77	3.62	11.48	4.16	11.91	5.68
	9	15.61	3.93	13.02	4.85	13.88	4.73
Girls (primary school)							
	2	16.33	5.10	15.39	3.33	13.22	3.87
	3	10.73	4.18	15.21	2.89	10.71	5.21
	4	11.69	4.70	16.96	3.54	9.55	6.54
	5	9.34	4.12	14.93	3.63	10.45	4.90
	6	10.57	3.72	15.88	3.33	12.07	4.13
Girls (secondary school)							
	7	12.58	4.14	11.00	3.88	13.32	3.79
	8	11.93	3.64	13.59	4.31	14.62	4.80
	9	13.71	4.74	14.10	4.21	16.80	3.67

function of the precise sample studied and the inventory used, but this seems unlikely in view of the fact that other writers, using different samples and different measuring devices, have reported similar results. Lynn (6), commenting on results reported by Cattell and Scheier (1), states that "the results of these two inquiries are broadly consistent, with Japan emerging as a high anxiety country and the UK and the United States as low-anxiety countries in both cases" (p. 58). On extraversion, too, Cattell's data are congruent with ours; in a table prepared from his results by Lynn, Japan emerges as the most introverted country, with a mean score of 3.08; the UK has a mean score on extraversion of 4.76. On both factors, therefore, there is agreement on the essential facts.

3. *Schoolchildren in Japan and England*

At what age do these personality differences appear? Little seems to be known about this question and, consequently, we tested samples of boys and girls of various ages with the Junior PEN. It will be seen in Table 1 that, as usual, boys have higher P scores and lower N scores; the E scores are equal, which is a little unusual, boys usually having higher E scores.

For the Japanese children, mean values for all traits vary considerably with age and, consequently, values are given for the different ages and tests made for each age separately against the English norms. The English values are fairly representative of the country, having been taken from many different schools; the Japanese values come from two rural schools and two semiurban schools. In all cases, children were tested by their class teachers. Table 1 shows the Japanese norms.

Taking each trait in turn, we can see that at all ages the Japanese children have much higher P scores than do the English ones; all differences are significant beyond the .001 level. Girls are lower than boys by about the same margin as in England, but even the Japanese girls exceed the English boys by a substantial amount. There are no pronounced age trends.

For E, there appears a marked break between primary and secondary school. In primary school, Japanese children are more extraverted than the English; this difference is significant at grades 2, 4, and 5 for the boys, and grade 4 for the girls. In secondary school, Japanese children are less extraverted, the differences being significant in grades 8 and 9 for the boys and grades 7, 8, and 9 for the girls. Unless the choice of school has produced this reversal, it would appear that Japanese children are born equally or even more extraverted, as compared with English children but that when they enter secondary school, society enforces much more introverted behavior. The national differences here disclosed would then be largely environmental.

When we turn to N, we find that for the boys, all Japanese values are higher than the English ones; all are highly significant except those for grades 5 and 6. For the girls, three values (all in primary school) show the Japanese girls lower on N, but only the value for grade 4 is significant. All other values are higher for Japanese girls and are highly significant, except for grade 6. Sex differences are not clearly marked, although in grades 8 and 9 the usual pattern of higher N scores for girls emerges quite strongly. The conclusion to which these values tend would seem to be that Japanese

children are higher on N at all ages, so that the possibility of genetic differences cannot be ruled out.

An L (Lie or dissimulation) scale was included in the PEN in order to discover faking. The values on the L scale are not given for the Japanese children, as they do not systematically differ from corresponding English values. Girls in both countries have higher L scores than boys. There appears to be no reason to assume that the Japanese children attempted to dissimulate either more or less than the English children. The correlations between N and L are quite low, ranging from $-.27$ (girls in primary school) to $-.04$ (boys in primary school). These correlations suggest little falsification (8). Of the other correlations between scales, only those for the P and N scales are noteworthy; they are quite high for different groups (from $.44$ to $.66$). As with the adult Japanese sample, N and P are much more highly correlated here than in England.

D. DISCUSSION

The data in this study speak for themselves and need little comment. On the whole, for both adults and children Japanese have higher scores on N and P and lower scores (at least from secondary school onwards) on E. These results agree with results from studies using demographic and epidemiological data in finding Japan firmly in the dysthymic quadrant of the personality structure and are also in accordance with questionnaire studies using other inventories. For P and N it is impossible to decide between a genetic and a social environmental explanation of the observed differences; for E, there is the change from extraversion to introversion in the Japanese children, as they progress from primary to secondary education, which is suggestive of social-environmental influences (although this would not rule out genetic differences). Our data cannot in the nature of the case take us beyond the descriptive stage.

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