

A CROSS-CULTURAL STUDY OF PERSONALITY: RUSSIA AND ENGLAND

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Summary—538 males and 529 females completed the translated Eysenck Personality Questionnaire (EPQ) in Russia. Factor comparisons all exceeded 0.95 except that for Psychoticism (P) for females which was 0.92. We may, therefore, assume that the factors of Extraversion (E), Neuroticism (N) and Social Desirability or Lie scale (L) are measuring the same in Russia as in England, with a somewhat weaker concomitance for females on P. Sex differences were the usual, i.e. males scored higher on P and E but lower on N and L. Cross-cultural comparison of norms, obtained by comparing only items Russian and English scoring keys have in common, revealed that Russian females scored lower on E than their English counterparts, Russian males scored higher on N than their English counterparts and social desirability was somewhat higher for the Russian subjects, this however only reaching the 0.5 significance level for the males. In short, no obvious or general cross-cultural differences were found. The Russian form of the EPQ can be used confidently in Russia, with caution as far as the interpretation of the P score is concerned since reliabilities (alpha coefficients) were lower for P, those for E, N and L being totally satisfactory.

INTRODUCTION

The Eysenck Personality Questionnaire (EPQ) was standardised in England (Eysenck & Eysenck, 1975) and many cross-cultural studies of the EPQ were subsequently carried out (Barrett & Eysenck, 1984). Notable among these were several in Europe; in Greece (Dimitriou & Eysenck, 1978); in Spain (Eysenck, Escobar & Lobo, 1982); in Iceland (Eysenck & Haraldsson, 1983); in Sweden (Eysenck, von Knorring & von Knorring, 1988); in Hungary (Eysenck & Matolesi, 1984), in Yugoslavia (Lojk, Eysenck & Eysenck, 1979); in Bulgaria (Paspalanov, Shtetinski & Eysenck, 1984); in Romania (Eysenck, Baban, Derevenco & Pitariu, 1989) and, of particular interest to this article, the study carried out in Lithuania (Eysenck, Pakula & Gostantas, 1990).

These cross-cultural studies were undertaken with three main aims: (1) to show that the same major dimensions of personality; Psychoticism (P), Extraversion (E), Neuroticism (N) and Social Desirability or Lie Score (L) exist in other cultures. (2) To provide a valid scoring key for the country under consideration. (3) To make comparisons of norms, on P, E, N and L using only items in common to both scoring keys (Eysenck & Eysenck, 1982; Eysenck, 1983).

METHOD

The 101 item version of the EPQ (Eysenck & Eysenck, 1975) was translated into Russian and given to 538 male and 529 female Ss aged: 34.9 ± 12.66 and 35.40 ± 10.52 yr respectively. Ss were Soviet managers (middle and supervisors). The Russian form of the EPQ was developed using standard strategy (algorithm) described in more detail in Hanin (1989).

RESULTS

Product-moment correlations were calculated and then factored by Principal Components methods, rotated by hyperplane maximised direct oblimin, taking the first four factors only for rotational purposes.

Tables 1–4 give the resulting factor loadings on P, E, N and L respectively. These loadings comprise the British scoring key, plus additional items at the end, which have loaded well and consistently in the Russian groups and have, therefore, been considered for inclusion in the scoring key.

Table 1. Factor loadings on P, E, N and L for the P scale

	P	E	N	L	P	E	N	L
	MALES: <i>n</i> = 538				FEMALES: <i>n</i> = 529			
-2	-0.32	0.00	-0.06	0.04	-0.37	-0.08	-0.01	0.06
-6	-0.29	-0.14	0.16	-0.07	-0.28	-0.06	0.13	-0.04
-9	-0.09	-0.08	0.10	0.02	-0.16	-0.07	0.12	0.04
-11	-0.37	0.11	0.18	-0.00	-0.31	0.03	0.16	0.10
-19	-0.16	0.10	0.01	0.05	0.09	0.01	-0.03	0.10
23	0.52	0.05	-0.10	-0.07	0.38	0.11	0.07	-0.15
27	0.41	0.08	0.13	0.03	0.33	0.04	0.05	-0.02
31	0.07	0.08	0.24	-0.05	0.22	0.06	0.38	0.02
35	0.42	0.21	0.08	-0.09	0.40	0.14	0.15	-0.11
-39	-0.25	0.22	0.11	0.14	-0.34	0.03	0.02	0.02
47	0.42	0.14	-0.18	0.06	0.32	-0.00	0.12	0.10
51	0.22	0.18	0.08	0.04	0.23	0.07	-0.04	-0.21
55	0.16	-0.13	0.04	0.13	0.21	-0.10	0.11	0.06
-59	-0.32	-0.03	0.28	0.05	-0.46	0.02	0.08	0.02
-63	-0.18	-0.05	0.14	0.10	-0.14	-0.12	0.12	0.28
-67	-0.17	-0.04	0.00	0.01	-0.18	0.13	0.01	0.07
71	0.10	-0.04	0.10	-0.20	0.10	0.09	0.35	-0.20
74	0.09	-0.02	0.07	0.20	0.13	-0.01	0.05	0.14
-78	-0.36	-0.04	0.06	-0.02	-0.33	0.07	-0.01	0.17
81	0.25	0.06	-0.01	-0.09	0.27	0.16	0.06	-0.08
85	0.36	-0.10	0.18	0.11	0.29	-0.13	0.21	-0.00
88	0.36	0.12	-0.20	-0.31	0.27	0.08	0.06	-0.22
93	0.33	0.06	0.20	-0.08	0.42	0.06	0.25	0.04
97	0.24	-0.09	0.24	-0.04	0.15	-0.03	0.39	-0.08
-100	-0.25	0.09	0.10	-0.10	-0.27	0.08	-0.02	-0.03
4	0.41	0.06	0.05	0.06	0.30	0.08	0.03	-0.11
38	0.35	0.02	0.04	-0.05	0.34	0.10	-0.01	-0.07

Before inspecting the loadings with a view to selecting suitable items for the Russian scoring key, factor comparisons were calculated after the method of Kaiser, Hunka and Bianchini (1969). This allows a direct comparison of each of the personality factors between Russian and English Ss, before scales are extracted. These values are given in Table 5 and can be seen to be adequately high for all but the Russian and British females, where a value of 0.92 for P seems low. It may be of interest to note that factor comparisons in Lithuania were all above 0.97 and that it was therefore concluded that Lithuanian and British factors were for all practical purposes identical. This may be said similarly for the present study, except for a caution on the psychoticism factor for females.

On inspection of the factor loadings, two items on the E scale had to be omitted from the scoring key; No. 38 "Would you call yourself happy-go-lucky?" which gave sizeable loadings on P and No. 70 "Do you often take on more activities than you have time for?" which loaded substantially on N. No new items presented themselves for substitution and the E scale, therefore, comprises 19 items.

Table 2. Factor loadings on P, E, N and L for the E scale

	P	E	N	L	P	E	N	L
	MALES: <i>n</i> = 538				FEMALES: <i>n</i> = 529			
1	0.18	0.26	0.06	0.06	0.07	0.27	0.01	0.01
5	0.01	0.59	0.02	-0.10	-0.07	0.62	0.14	-0.03
10	-0.12	0.51	-0.13	0.06	-0.01	0.62	-0.16	0.02
15	-0.06	0.39	-0.03	-0.24	-0.12	0.44	-0.06	-0.14
18	-0.01	0.41	0.01	0.10	-0.07	0.38	-0.10	-0.05
-22	-0.14	-0.47	0.14	-0.10	-0.07	-0.49	0.13	0.10
26	0.07	0.44	-0.12	-0.05	-0.01	0.48	-0.07	-0.20
-30	-0.05	-0.32	0.14	0.03	0.07	-0.42	0.17	0.19
34	0.08	0.45	-0.06	0.20	0.03	0.49	-0.10	0.15
38	0.35	0.02	0.04	-0.05	0.34	0.10	-0.01	-0.07
42	-0.06	0.52	-0.02	0.08	0.18	0.44	0.13	0.15
-46	-0.07	-0.51	0.14	0.10	-0.04	-0.58	-0.05	0.14
50	0.12	0.63	0.06	0.12	0.13	0.66	0.08	0.21
54	0.07	0.36	0.01	-0.26	0.06	0.38	0.07	-0.09
58	-0.12	0.37	-0.02	-0.05	-0.28	0.32	-0.10	-0.02
62	0.08	0.56	0.01	-0.04	0.03	0.50	0.09	-0.03
66	-0.15	0.36	0.04	0.14	0.01	0.26	0.08	0.20
70	0.10	0.17	0.30	0.10	0.10	0.24	0.32	0.12
77	0.03	0.63	0.04	-0.03	0.06	0.67	0.01	0.10
92	0.11	0.41	0.06	-0.15	0.08	0.36	-0.10	-0.13
96	0.04	0.67	0.13	0.04	0.10	0.64	0.03	0.13

Table 3. Factor loadings on P, E, N and L for the N scale

N	P	E	N	L	P	E	N	L
MALES: <i>n</i> = 538				FEMALES: <i>n</i> = 529				
3	0.22	0.02	0.35	-0.12	0.10	0.04	0.33	-0.20
7	0.03	-0.10	0.32	-0.35	-0.20	0.01	0.28	-0.34
12	-0.04	-0.06	0.39	0.04	-0.31	-0.07	0.22	-0.01
16	0.00	0.04	0.53	-0.17	-0.05	0.02	0.55	-0.23
20	-0.10	-0.08	0.53	-0.04	-0.19	-0.08	0.39	0.03
24	0.35	-0.13	0.40	-0.09	0.10	-0.19	0.51	-0.11
28	-0.07	-0.11	0.48	0.09	-0.12	-0.10	0.32	0.02
32	0.10	-0.03	0.53	-0.20	0.01	0.01	0.50	-0.20
36	0.15	0.29	0.50	0.07	-0.09	0.20	0.40	0.04
40	-0.18	0.11	0.48	0.06	-0.26	0.07	0.34	0.17
44	0.04	-0.01	0.64	0.08	0.06	0.04	0.66	-0.03
52	-0.06	0.13	-0.10	-0.04	-0.17	0.14	0.14	0.06
60	0.12	-0.02	0.41	0.16	0.14	-0.02	0.49	0.15
64	0.24	-0.21	0.42	-0.10	0.13	-0.29	0.46	-0.14
68	0.40	-0.10	0.22	-0.03	0.09	-0.22	0.39	-0.06
72	-0.02	0.24	0.14	-0.06	-0.18	0.26	0.07	-0.15
75	0.14	-0.11	0.29	-0.15	0.01	-0.09	0.23	-0.31
79	-0.13	-0.10	0.51	0.06	-0.31	-0.14	0.24	0.04
82	-0.04	0.04	0.61	0.07	-0.02	0.07	0.56	0.11
86	0.24	-0.21	0.41	-0.14	0.16	-0.22	0.39	-0.17
89	0.06	-0.02	0.48	-0.12	-0.06	-0.06	0.29	-0.15
94	0.09	0.08	0.20	-0.32	-0.14	0.16	0.19	-0.02
98	-0.13	0.02	0.34	-0.06	-0.31	0.20	0.24	-0.10
70	0.10	0.17	0.30	0.10	0.10	0.24	0.32	0.12

Surprisingly, six items were unsatisfactory on the N scale and had to be dropped. Item No. 7 "Do you ever feel 'just miserable' for no reason?" loaded on L, No. 52 "Do you worry about your health?" lost all loadings; No. 68 "Do you often feel life is very dull?" though loading well on N for females, loaded sizeably on P for males; No. 72 "Do you worry a lot about your looks?" lost all loadings; No. 75 "Have you ever wished that you were dead?" loaded weakly on N, but also coined a loading on L and No. 94 "Are you sometimes bubbling over with energy and sometimes very sluggish?" lost all loading for females and produced a sizeable L loading for males. Hence, all these items were dropped and No. 70, mentioned in connection with its failure to load on E

Table 4. Factor loadings on P, E, N and L for the L scale

L	P	E	N	L	P	E	N	L
MALES: <i>n</i> = 538				FEMALES: <i>n</i> = 529				
-4	0.41	0.06	0.05	-0.06	0.30	0.08	0.03	-0.11
-8	0.18	0.04	0.01	-0.49	0.16	0.01	0.10	-0.42
13	-0.13	0.12	0.02	0.40	-0.22	0.03	0.11	0.41
-17	0.10	0.06	0.14	-0.31	0.06	0.07	0.20	-0.37
21	0.10	0.17	0.03	0.29	0.25	0.10	-0.08	0.36
-25	0.04	0.03	-0.12	-0.56	0.13	0.02	0.02	-0.41
-29	0.02	0.04	0.04	-0.54	0.02	-0.07	0.09	-0.56
37	0.14	-0.11	0.20	0.26	0.08	-0.00	0.18	0.32
-41	0.05	0.08	0.10	-0.40	0.07	0.09	0.06	-0.35
-49	-0.00	0.12	0.09	-0.53	-0.01	0.15	0.09	-0.57
-53	-0.06	0.02	0.08	-0.64	-0.06	0.09	0.16	-0.47
-57	-0.07	0.04	0.04	-0.36	-0.03	-0.03	0.08	-0.38
61	-0.21	0.20	-0.03	0.20	-0.23	0.01	0.05	0.34
-65	0.18	0.14	-0.09	-0.48	0.10	0.24	0.02	-0.43
-69	0.24	0.03	-0.14	-0.56	0.08	0.03	0.03	-0.54
-76	0.31	0.01	-0.17	-0.43	0.12	0.04	-0.04	-0.48
-80	-0.25	0.04	-0.00	-0.27	-0.25	0.04	0.00	-0.31
87	-0.08	0.15	-0.02	0.42	-0.07	0.08	-0.00	0.57
-91	0.04	-0.10	-0.04	-0.39	-0.04	0.01	-0.08	-0.43
-95	-0.04	-0.18	0.00	-0.47	-0.14	-0.05	0.00	-0.44
99	-0.27	0.00	-0.05	0.32	-0.12	-0.01	0.10	0.53
33	-0.13	0.05	0.05	0.44	-0.13	0.15	0.02	0.48
73	0.00	0.02	0.00	0.46	-0.05	0.13	-0.05	0.46
-83	0.08	0.11	0.07	-0.44	-0.05	-0.02	0.14	-0.59

Table 5. Factor comparisons on P, E, N and L for various groups

Factor comparisons	P	E	N	L
Russian males vs British males	0.99	0.98	0.98	0.99
Russian females vs British females	0.92	0.99	0.96	0.99
Russian males vs Russian females	0.95	0.99	0.99	0.99

was added after due consideration of the content which could well have been altered slightly in translation to be transformed into an N item. The N scale now has 18 items.

These items on the L scale proved to be inappropriate. No. 4 "Have you ever taken the praise for something you knew someone else had really done?" whose loadings were squarely on P; No. 61 "Do you always wash before a meal?" where the female loading was satisfactory but the male loading was very small; No. 80 "Have you ever insisted on having your own way?" where there were shared L & P loadings. Hence these three weak items were dropped but fortunately three items appeared suitable for substitution. No. 33 "Do you always say you are sorry when you have been rude?"; No. 73 "Are you always polite even to unpleasant people?" and No. 83 "Have you ever deliberately said something to hurt someone's feelings?" The L scale, therefore, remained at 21 items.

Finally, nine items on the P scale were inappropriate and had to be omitted. No. 9 "Do you lock your house carefully at night?", and No. 19 "Do you believe insurance schemes are a good idea?" lost all loadings. No. 31 "Do you have enemies who want to harm you?" transferred the loadings to N; No. 55 "Do most things taste the same to you?"; No. 63 "Do you like to arrive at appointments in plenty of time?"; No. 67 "Is (or was) your mother a good woman?"; No. 71 "Are there several people who keep trying to avoid you?"; and No. 74 "Do you think people spend too much time safeguarding their future with savings and insurances?" lost all loadings, and No. 97 "Do people tell you a lot of lies?" loaded more on N than P. These items then were dropped and, unfortunately, only two items could be found for substitution. These were No. 4 (from the Lie scale) and No. 38 (from the E scale). Again, with a slight change in emphasis, these two items could well be conceived of as P items contentwise and were, therefore, included, making the P scale 18 items long, so the total number of items for the Russian scoring key given in Table 6 is 76. A similar problem with the P scale occurred for the Lithuanian study, where indeed eleven items had to be omitted but four were found suitable for substitution.

Having chosen the scoring key for Russian Ss, reliabilities (alpha coefficients) were calculated and these are given in Table 7, together with the intercorrelations of the scales. It will be seen that all but the P scale values are totally satisfactory, and that these are indeed on the weak side.

Norms were calculated for the Russian groups and are given in Table 8. The usual sex differences manifest themselves, the males scoring higher than the females on P and E but lower on N and L.

Finally, it seemed of interest to compare Russian and British norms, using only those items in common on both scoring keys. Table 9 gives these values and it can be seen that no really clear-cut cross-cultural differences emerge. Although Russian females score lower on E than their British counterparts, this is not statistically significant for the males. Similarly, although the Russian males score higher on N than their British counterparts, again, the female comparison is not statistically significant. With regard to L, although the trend is in the same direction, Russians scoring higher on Social Desirability, this is only weakly significant for males. From these data it would be hard

Table 6. Russian scoring key

(P)	YES: 4, 23, 27, 35, 38, 47, 51, 81, 85, 88, 93	
	NO: 2, 6, 11, 39, 59, 78, 100	(18)
(E)	YES: 1, 5, 10, 15, 18, 26, 34, 42, 50, 54, 58, 62, 66, 77, 92, 96	
	NO: 22, 30, 46	(19)
(N)	YES: 3, 12, 16, 20, 24, 28, 32, 36, 40, 44, 60, 64, 70, 79, 82, 86, 89, 98	
		(18)
(L)	YES: 13, 21, 33, 37, 73, 87, 99	
	NO: 8, 17, 25, 29, 41, 49, 53, 57, 65, 69, 76, 83, 91, 95	(21)

Table 7. Reliabilities (alpha-coefficients) and intercorrelations of the P, E, N and L scales

	Reliabilities		Intercorrelations (scales)	
	Males	Females	Males	Females
P	0.63	0.61	PE	0.14
E	0.82	0.83	PN	0.03
N	0.81	0.76	PL	-0.35
L	0.83	0.83	EN	-0.12
			EL	-0.05
			NL	-0.07

Table 8. Means and standard deviations of P, E, N, L and age for Russian males and females

	P		E		N		L		Age	
	M	SD	M	SD	M	SD	M	SD	M	SD
Males	2.43	2.19	10.45	4.32	9.64	4.10	8.86	4.57	34.94	12.66
Females	1.75	1.84	9.96	4.38	12.00	3.51	10.98	4.64	35.40	10.52

Table 9. Comparison of means and standard deviations of Russian Ss and British Ss on scales of common items

	P		E		N		L		Age		n
	M	SD	M	SD	M	SD	M	SD	M	SD	
Russian males	2.19	1.96	10.45	3.32	9.04	3.97	7.32	3.91	34.94	12.66	538
Russian females	1.58	1.66	9.96	4.38	11.39	3.39	9.19	3.94	35.40	10.52	529
British males	2.09	2.01	11.78	4.77	7.11	4.04	6.80	4.22	34.66	13.90	766
British females	1.37	1.48	11.57	4.53	9.83	4.16	7.87	3.98	34.81	12.46	529
	P	E	N	L	Age						
Males	NS	NS	<0.001	<0.05	NS						
Females	NS	<0.001	NS	<0.001	NS						

to argue for any proven cross-cultural differences on these personality factors. However, in the Lithuanian study, significant trends for both sexes were observed, Lithuanians scoring higher than the British on P and L and lower on E.

The method used by us to derive indices of factor comparison has been criticised (Bijnen, Van der Net & Poortinga, 1986; Bijnen & Poortinga, 1988), defended (Eysenck, Barrett & Eysenck, 1985) and analysed in detail (Barrett, 1986). An analysis over 24 countries comparing homologous with non-homologous values for the indices of factor comparison, showed that the mean value for homologous scales (i.e. P vs P, E vs E, N vs N, etc.) was 0.983; for non-homologous scales (e.g. P vs E or N vs L) was 0.132. It is acknowledged that the index is not perfect and may be misleading under certain conditions, but clearly such conditions do not pertain to our use of the index.

Nevertheless, it seemed desirable to state our results in terms not derived from factor analysis, but from an independent method, namely multi-dimensional scaling, using in particular the so-called smallest space analysis (Minissa, 1981), a method which relies on a graphic representation of the closeness of items by measuring scalar distances. Using the U.K. scoring key we obtain Fig. 1 for U.K. males, showing a very clear clustering of items in the expected four groups (P, E, N and L). U.S.S.R. males are shown in Fig. 2, and it will be clear that while the centroids of the four groups are preserved, several items transfer to other clusters. Females show an analogous shift.

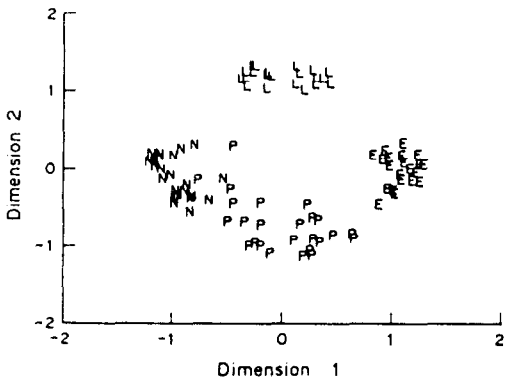


Fig. 1

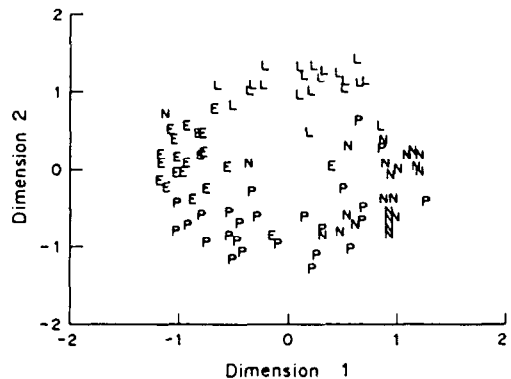


Fig. 2

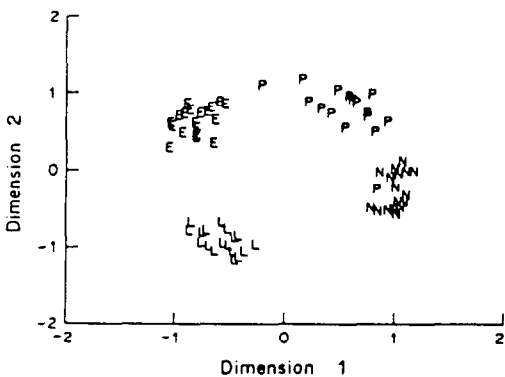


Fig. 3

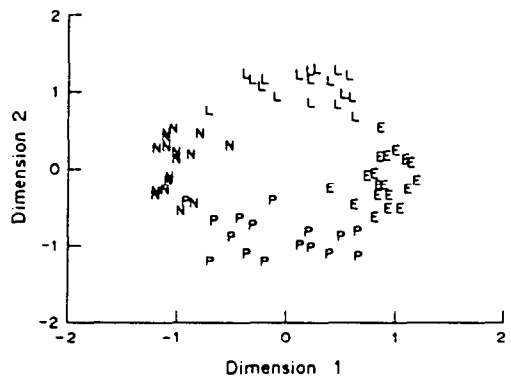


Fig. 4

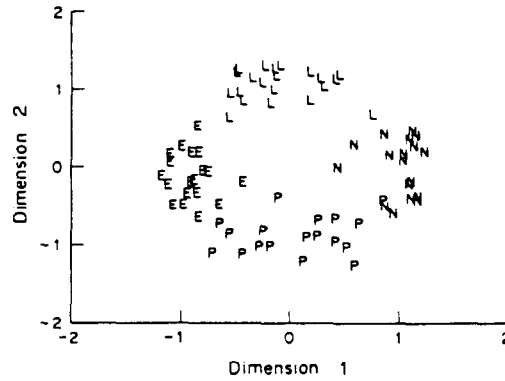


Fig. 5

When we turn to the common score key, we see that both countries have very similar degrees of clustering. Figure 3 shows results for U.K. males, Fig. 4 for U.S.S.R. males (again results are similar for females). In both figures only 1 (P) item is misplaced (in the N cluster), otherwise clustering is perfect. Stress values indicative of closeness of relationships are expectedly lower for the U.K. than the U.S.S.R. sample using the U.K. key (0.20 vs 0.26); for the common key there is still a difference (0.18 vs 0.22), but clearly both are satisfactory now.

This analysis thus gives results very similar to those given by factor analysis. The greater spread of P values corresponds to the lower alpha reliability of the P values, etc. This confirmation by an independent analysis greatly strengthens our conclusions.

In these calculations the number of dimensions was determined by a plot of the stress values, using a variant of the scree technique. We also calculated and plotted 3-dimensional groupings, but there was no gain in doing so and the fundamental congruence of the data remained unchanged.

For the sake of completeness, we include Fig. 5, which shows U.S.S.R. males using the Russian score key.

DISCUSSION

Clearly one of the more interesting features of this Russian study is the comparison that can be made with the Lithuanian study. Most of the items on their respective scoring keys are the same, although the Lithuanians did have several more items available on all but the P scale (2 more for E; 6 more for N and 1 more for L). Those items, particularly on the P scale, that had to be abandoned largely comprised items on insurance, house security and punctuality which are probably not as important in Russia or Lithuania as in the Western world. This suggests that further studies incorporating P scale items more appropriate to the Russian culture might yield a better and longer P scale resulting in higher alpha coefficients. All reliabilities are remarkably similar in the Russian and Lithuanian studies, with the female P value even lower in the latter study. Intercorrelations also were similar in the two studies, the only values of note being for PL, a result not dissimilar to most of the cross-cultural studies. Sex differences on norms were in line also with most other studies.

Finally, in comparing the means and standard deviations of the factors for Russian and British Ss, using only items in common for both scoring keys, no really clear-cut results emerged. By contrast, there were statistically significant differences in the Lithuanian study; they scoring higher on P and L than the British Ss but lower on E. The same trend can be observed in the Russian data, but not with the same degree of statistical significance.

In conclusion, it may be said that the use of the EPQ can be recommended confidently for Russian Ss, both clinically and for research, with the proviso that some caution in the interpretation of the P scale be exercised.

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