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Errata Corrige

Please, allow us to point out a mistake – which is of a formal rather than a textual nature – in the last number (n. 274) of Applied Psychology Bulletin – BPA

Research – A beliefs-based measure of attitudes towards urban littering, Paola Passafaro, Fridanna Maricchiolo, Annalisa Angelici, Virginia Ciaraldi, Silvia Giannetti, Sofia Ludovici, Matteo Lungo, Martina Marra, Francesca Piselli, Simona Rosana
Do Communication Patterns Predict the Psychological Abuse in Young Adults Romantic Relationships?

Franca Tani¹, Sonia Ingoglia², Martina Smorti³

¹ Department of Health Sciences, Psychology Unit, University of Florence
² Department of Psychological and Educational Sciences, University of Palermo
³ Faculty of Education, Free University of Bozen

ABSTRACT. L’obiettivo di questo studio è stato quello di indagare il legame tra i differenti pattern di comunicazione e l’abuso psicologico all’interno delle relazioni sentimentali di giovani adulti. Nello specifico, la ricerca aveva come obiettivo l’analisi della relazione diretta tra i pattern di comunicazione efficace, evitante, rifiutante e manipolativo e i comportamenti di vittimizzazione e perpetrzione di abuso psicologico all’interno delle coppie. Hanno partecipato alla ricerca 557 giovani adulti (211 maschi), di età compresa tra i 18 e i 30 anni (M = 22.61, DS = 3.85), che al momento dello studio erano coinvolti in una relazione sentimentale che durava da almeno 6 mesi. I risultati mostrano che i più importanti predittori dell’abuso psicologico agito e subito all’interno delle coppie sono i pattern di comunicazione rifiutante e manipolativa; il pattern evitante, invece, non è risultato un predittore significativo dell’abuso psicologico. Sono state identificate le implicazioni teoriche e sociali e le direttive per le future ricerche.

SUMMARY. The aim of the study was to investigate the link between different communication patterns and psychological abuse among young adults romantic relationships. Specifically, the research was aimed at analyzing the direct relation between efficacious, avoidant, dismissive and manipulative communicative patterns and both reported victimized and perpetrated behaviors of psychological abuse within the couple. Participants were 557 young adults (211 males), aged between 18-30 years (M = 22.61; SD = 3.85), currently involved in a heterosexual romantic relationship of at least 6 months duration. Results showed that the most important predictors of perpetration and victimization reports of psychological abuse are the Dismissal and Manipulation communication patterns, whereas Avoidance is not a significant predictor of psychological abuse. Theoretical and social implications and directions for future research are identified.

Keywords: Psychological abuse; Victimization; Perpetration; Communication strategies; Romantic relationships; Young adults

INTRODUCTION

Intimate partner violence (IPV) is one of the most important public health problems in the world (Akar, Aksakal, Demirel, Durukan & Ozhan, 2010; Awang & Hariharan, 2011; Hou, Yu, Ting, Sze & Fang, 2011; Kar & Garcia-Moreno, 2009; World Health Organization, 2013). IPV takes on several forms, such as physical, psychological and sexual violence, and can be committed by one or both partners in marital, cohabiting, dating and other intimate relationships (Callahan, Tolman & Saunders, 2003; Dutton, Goodman & Bennett, 2001; O’Leary & Woodin, 2009). To date
research has mainly examined physical and sexual violence, whereas much less work has investigated psychological abuse within romantic relationships considering it as a separate and distinct form of aggression, which does not necessarily overlap with physical or sexual violence (DeHart, Follingstad & Fields, 2010; Follingstad, 2007; Sackett & Saunders, 1999). Theory and research suggest that psychological abuse is a common and significant form of interpersonal violence, not only in violent relationships, or clinical samples, but also in college romantic relationships and in adolescents during the transition to adulthood (Bonechi & Tani, 2011a; Jose & O’Leary, 2009; Lawrence, Yoon, Langer & Ro, 2009; Milletich, Kelley, Doane & Pearson, 2010). The prevalence rates vary widely in different studies, probably because in each of them definition of psychological abuse significantly varies, despite most of the studies suggests that approximately 70% to 90% of college couples have experienced some forms of psychological aggression in their relationships (Bonechi & Tani, 2011b; Gormley & Lopez, 2010; Hausmann, Tyson & Zahidi, 2009; Kar & Garcia-Moreno, 2009), in the same distribution by men and women (Antonio & Hokoda, 2009; Bonechi & Tani, 2011b), in contrast with physical abuse that is mainly suffered by women.

Researchers define psychological abuse as any behavior or act that is designed to provoke emotional pain to partner and establish an unequal distribution of power in the relationship. It is a complex phenomenon in which it is possible to track down a variety of behaviors, all aimed to control partner and/or destroy his/her self-esteem and sense of safety (Ro & Lawrence, 2007). In order to explain this complexity, Murphy and Hoover (1999) propose a multidimensional model, comprising four main dimensions. The first dimension, Restrictive Engulfment, includes coercive acts that isolate, restrict, control and monitor the partner, such as possessiveness, pathological jealousy and isolation from family and friends. The second dimension, Denigration, comprises actions or verbal attacks, humiliation, name-calling and criticism, which have a negative impact on the partner’s self-esteem. The third dimension, Hostile Withdrawal, includes behaviors such as withholding emotional contact and acting distant, which are intended to punish the partner or increase his/her anxiety or insecurity. Finally, the fourth dimension, Dominance/Intimidation, comprises actions that are intended to create fear and submission through threats or attacks to person property.

Psychological abuse leads to deleterious consequences for psychological and physical well being (Mechanic, Weaver & Mesick, 2008) that in many cases can have a more negative impact than physical abuse (O’Leary, 2001). Depending on the different forms of psychological abuse, the outcomes may include low self-esteem (Sakett & Saunders, 1999), fearfulness, self-blame (Miller & Porter, 2010), learned helplessness (Peterson & Selingman, 2010), anxiety (Lawrence et al., 2009) and/or depressive symptoms, and post-traumatic stress disorder (Bargai, Ben-Shakhar & Shalev, 2007).

However, the interest of researchers has focused not only on the negative consequences of psychological abuse (William, Frieze & Henson, 2005), but also on the risk factors that increase the likelihood of experiencing it (Schumacher, Feldbau-Kohn, Smith Slep & Heyman, 2001). Indeed, the majority of studies have paid particular attention to the role of individual and psychopathological variables, while little attention has been given to an analysis of the communicative variables related to violence (Capaldi, Kim & Short, 2007; Feldman & Ridley, 2000). Moreover, most of these studies focus primarily on marital relations, while little attention has been given to adolescent and young adult relationships. To address this limitation, the main focus of the present study is to examine the role that different types of communication strategies used by partners in their daily exchanges have in initiating and maintaining several forms of psychological abuse within young adults romantic relationships.

Communication Patterns and Couple Violence

A great deal of research has found that communication patterns are a powerful predictor of relationship quality and marital satisfaction (Gottman, 1994; Punyanunt-Carter, 2004). Specifically, negative communication styles predict relationship deterioration, divorce, and represent a distinguishing characteristic of couple violence (Cordova, Jacobson, Gottman, Feldman, Rushe & Cox, 1993; Fletcher, 2002). The empirical literature in this area, however, has especially examined the link between communication and physical abuse, demonstrating that physically violent couples respond to conflict with hostile communication patterns (Robertson & Murachver, 2007), exhibit high levels of avoidance and use less constructive communication styles during their daily interactions (Feldman & Ridley, 2000). In addition, victims and perpetrators of physical
Immediate outcomes after inpatient intensive CBT for severe, resistant OCD

More severe inpatients with comorbid Obsessive-Compulsive Personality Disorder get the most out of treatment. A preliminary study

Andrea Pozza1,2, Gian Paolo Mazzoni3,4, Davide Coradeschi2, Davide Dettore2,5

1 Department of Experimental and Clinical Medicine, University of Florence
2 Miller Institute of Behavioral and Cognitive Psychotherapy, Genoa
3 Unit for the Treatment of Resistant OCD, Poggio Sereno Clinic, Fiesole, Florence
4 “Studii Cognitivi” Cognitive Psychotherapy and Research Center, Florence
5 Department of Health Sciences, University of Florence

ABSTRACT. In DOC la compresenza di Disturbo Ossessivo-Compulsivo di Personalità (DOC-P) è associata a maggior gravità sintomatica. Il presente studio ha indagato se un programma di Psicoterapia Cognitivo-Comportamentale a alta Intensità (PCC-I) sia una strategia efficace per pazienti ricoverati con DOC resistente e DOC-P in comorbilità. 56 pazienti con DOC resistente hanno seguito un programma di PCC-I di cinque settimane con sedute giornaliere di ERP prolungata. Il 20% del campione aveva diagnosi di DOC-P in comorbilità. Pazienti con più gravi sintomi DOC in fase pre-test e DOC-P in comorbilità hanno mostrato maggiori cambiamenti nei sintomi ossessivo-compulsivi ma non in quelli depressivi (B = 1.05, p<.01). Si suggeriscono studi randomizzati-controllati che valutino moduli terapeutici per i sintomi depressivi.

SUMMARY. Obsessive-Compulsive Disorder (OCD) with comorbid Obsessive-Compulsive Personality Disorder (OCPD) is associated to greater impairment than OCD alone. No research examined comorbid OCPD as a predictor of outcomes in resistant OCD. The current study investigated whether inpatients with resistant OCD and comorbid OCPD could benefit from an inpatient intensive CBT program (II-CBT). Fifty-six inpatients with resistant OCD were enrolled. Twenty had OCPD. Participants underwent a 5-week II-CBT including daily and prolonged ERP sessions. SCID-I and SCID-II were administered at baseline, Y-BOCS, and BDI-II at baseline and post-treatment. Treatment effects were large [unbiased Hedges’ g = 1.11]. An interaction effect emerged between baseline Y-BOCS scores and comorbid OCPD on outcomes (F = 4.05, p<.05). Inpatients with more severe Y-BOCS scores and comorbid OCPD had greater pre-post-treatment changes on Y-BOCS (B = .85, t = 2.01, p<.01), but not on BDI-II. II-CBT seemed to be a strategy tailored for inpatients with resistant OCD with comorbid OCPD. However, II-CBT did not seem to target comorbid depression.

Keywords: Resistant Obsessive-Compulsive Disorder, Cognitive Behavioural Therapy, Intensive treatment, Obsessive-Compulsive Personality Disorder

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Applicant’s self-efficacy in personnel selection: Perspectives and development of a new measure

Rita Chiesa, Marco Giovanni Mariani
Department of Psychology, University of Bologna

ABSTRACT. The present study proposes a scale for assessing the self-efficacy (PSSE) of applicants in the personnel selection process and tests its measurement properties. This construct is very important not only to study the applicant’s reactions (i.e., Truxillo, Bauer & Sanchez, 2001), but also to carry out a program of career guidance (i.e., Shantz & Latham, 2012). Construct validity was examined and content validity, dimensionality, reliability and criterion-related validity were analyzed. The participants were 460 Italian adults. A group of expert judges considered that seven items had adequate content validity. Confirmatory factor analysis showed that the original uni-dimensional model had the best fit; both internal consistency for reliability and convergent validity with other measures supported the quality of the psychometric properties. The results are discussed from the point of view of research and intervention.

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Keywords: Personnel selection, Self-efficacy, Scale of measure, Psychometric properties

INTRODUCTION

Nowadays people wishing to enter the world of work or change their job invariably have to go through a personnel selection procedure, and must therefore be ready to deal with the recruitment and selection techniques used by organizations (i.e., Konig, Jori & Knusel, 2011; Mariani, Curcuruto & Zavalloni, in press). It is very important, then, to understand how effective we are and/or what we consider to be effective in job interviews, mental ability...
A contribution towards the validation of the Italian version of the Entrepreneurial Potential Assessment Inventory

Paola Spagnoli¹, Susana Correia Santos², António Caetano², Alessandro Lo Presti¹

¹ Department of Psychology, Second University of Naples
² Instituto Universitário de Lisboa (ISCTE-IUL), Business Research Unit (BRU-IUL)

ABSTRACT. Gli strumenti di valutazione della carriera imprenditoriale sono essenziali per la promozione e lo sviluppo dell’imprenditorialità. Il presente studio costituisce un contributo alla validazione della versione Italiana dell’Entrepreneurial Potential Assessment Inventory (EPAI) (Santos, Caetano & Curral, 2014), traducibile in italiano con Inventario per la Valutazione del Potenziale Imprenditoriale (IVPI). In particolare, è stata valutata la validità di costrutto, convergente e discriminante dello strumento. Pertanto, sono state condotte Analisi Fattoriali Confermative e Analisi Fattoriale Confermativa Multi-gruppo, utilizzando il metodo dei Modelli di Equazione Strutturale, per testare la bontà di adattamento dei dati ottenuti da due gruppi di partecipanti (imprenditori e non) con l’originale modello teorico. I risultati indicano che l’IVPI può essere utilmente adottato negli interventi di orientamento professionale e nei servizi di consulenza alla carriera in Italia. Studi futuri dovrebbero tuttavia includere una revisione in particolare di due sotto-dimensioni delle competenze psicologiche: capacità di innovazione e intelligenza emotiva. Limiti dello studio e suggerimenti per la ricerca futura sono discussi.

SUMMARY. Entrepreneurial career assessment tools appear to be essential for the promotion and development of entrepreneurship. The present study reports a contribution towards the validation of the Italian version of the Entrepreneurial Potential Assessment Inventory (EPAI) (Santos, Caetano & Curral, 2014). Construct, convergent and discriminant validity were assessed. Confirmatory Factorial Analysis and Multi-group Confirmatory Factorial Analysis using SEM (Structural Equation Modeling) were conducted in order to test the fit of the data obtained from two samples (entrepreneurs and non-entrepreneurs) with the original theoretical model. The results indicated that the Italian version of the EPAI could be used for practical and research purpose. Thus, the EPAI could be adopted in vocational guidance interventions and career consultancy services in Italy. Future research in Italy should refine the scale by revising, in particular, two sub-dimensions of psychological competencies: capacity of innovation and emotional intelligence. Limitations and suggestions for further research are discussed.

Keywords: Entrepreneurial career, Entrepreneurial potential, Assessment tools, Validation, Italy
Sequential bilingualism and Specific Language Impairment: The Italian version of ALDeQ Parental Questionnaire

Paola Bonifacci¹, Rita Mari², Luana Gabbianelli³, Elena Ferraguti³, Federica Montanari², Francesca Burani⁴, Marina Porrelli⁵

¹ PhD, Department of Psychology, University of Bologna
² Speech and Language Therapist, Modena
³ Clinical Psychologist, Modena
⁴ Speech and Language Therapist, Cavriago (Re)
⁵ Clinical Psychologist, Child and Adolescent Neuropsychiatric Unit, AUSL Bologna

* ABSTRACT. La valutazione delle competenze linguistiche nel bilinguismo sequenziale è una tema di ricerca ancora oggetto di ampio dibattito in letteratura. L’obiettivo del presente studio era di valutare il potere discriminante della versione italiana dell’ALDeQ (Alberta Language Development Questionnaire; Paradis, Emmerzael & Sorenson Duncan, 2010). Il questionario tradotto e adattato è stato somministrato ai genitori di 18 bambini bilingui sequenziali con Disturbo Specifico di Linguaggio (DSL) e di 105 bambini con sviluppo tipico. I risultati ottenuti hanno evidenziato buoni indici di sensibilità e specificità, in particolare per quanto riguarda i punteggi globali della scala. I dati raccolti nel presente studio suggeriscono che la versione italiana dell’ALDeQ rappresenta uno strumento affidabile per valutare quei bambini bilingui sequenziali per i quali i clinici e gli educatori sospettano disturbi del linguaggio.

* SUMMARY. The assessment of linguistic competence in sequential bilingualism is a research issue that remains unresolved. The goal of the present study was to assess the discriminating power of the Italian version of the ALDeQ (Alberta Language and Development Questionnaire; Paradis, Emmerzael & Sorenson Duncan, 2010). The adapted questionnaire was administered to the parents of 18 sequential bilingual children with Specific Language Impairment (SLI) and to 105 parents of children with Typical Language Development. The results obtained revealed considerable sensitivity and specificity indexes, particularly for the full scale score. Data from the present study suggest that the Italian version of ALDeQ is a reliable instrument to be used for assessing sequential bilingual children for whom clinicians and educators are in doubt of possible language impairments.

Keywords: Sequential bilingualism, Parental reports, Specific language impairment, Language development, Family history