Far sides of the Moon: Reflexive characteristic adaptations

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Oral presentation at the 2nd World Conference on Personality (Buzios, Brazil, April 4, 2016)
Different standpoints on... personality traits
Lots of premises. The crucial ones

- The five-factor theory (McCrae & Costa, 1996, 2013)
- The self-discrepancy theory (Higgins, 1987)
- Self-consciousness research (e.g., Fenigstein, Scheier, & Buss, 1975; Trapnell & Campbell, 1999)
- Personality architecture (Cervone, 2004)
- Self-memory system (Conway, 2005; Conway & Pleydell-Pearce, 2000)
- Hot intelligence (Abelson, 1963) and personal intelligence (Mayer, 2009)
- Metacognitions (Efklides, 2008; Nelson & Narens, 1994; Schraw & Moshman, 1995)
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- Metacognitions (Efklides, 2008; Nelson & Narens, 1994; Schraw & Moshman, 1995)
Questionnaires present people with abstract, universal ideas.


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**APPENDIX 4.1. BIG FIVE INVENTORY RESPONSE FORM AND INSTRUCTIONS TO PARTICIPANTS**

*Instructions:* Here are a number of characteristics that may or may not apply to you. For example, do you agree that you are someone who *likes to spend time with others?* Please write a number next to each statement to indicate the extent to which you agree or disagree with that statement.

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_{I see myself as someone who...}_

1. ___ Is talkative
2. ___ Tends to find fault with others
3. ___ Does a thorough job
4. ___ Is depressed, blue
5. ___ Is original, comes up with new ideas
6. ___ Is reserved
7. ___ Is helpful and unselfish with others
8. ___ Can be somewhat careless
9. ___ Is relaxed, handles stress well
10. ___ Is curious about many different things
11. ___ Is full of energy
12. ___ Starts quarrels with others
13. ___ Is a reliable worker
14. ___ Can be tense
15. ___ Is ingenious, a deep thinker
16. ___ Generates a lot of enthusiasm
17. ___ Has a forgiving nature
18. ___ Tends to be disorganized
19. ___ Worries a lot
20. ___ Has an active imagination
21. ___ Tends to be quiet
22. ___ Is generally trusting
23. ___ _Is emotionally stable, not easily upset_
24. ___ _Is inventive_
25. ___ _Has an assertive personality_
26. ___ _Can be cold and aloof_
27. ___ _Perseveres until the task is finished_
28. ___ _Can be moody_
29. ___ _Values artistic, aesthetic experiences_
30. ___ _Is sometimes shy, inhibited_
31. ___ _Is considerate and kind to almost everyone_
32. ___ _Does things efficiently_
33. ___ _Remains calm in tense situations_
34. ___ _Prefers work that is routine_
35. ___ _Is outgoing, sociable_
36. ___ _Is sometimes rude to others_
37. ___ _Makes plans and follows through with them_
38. ___ _Gets nervous easily_
39. ___ _Likes to reflect, play with ideas_
40. ___ _Has few artistic interests_
41. ___ _Likes to cooperate with others_
42. ___ _Is easily distracted_
43. ___ _Is sophisticated in art, music, or literature_
Questionnaires ask people about abstract, universal ideas

HEXACO–60

1. I would be quite bored by a visit to an art gallery.
2. I plan ahead and organize things, to avoid scrambling at the last minute.
3. I rarely hold a grudge, even against people who have badly wronged me.
4. I feel reasonably satisfied with myself overall.
5. I would feel afraid if I had to travel in bad weather conditions.
6. I wouldn’t use flattery to get a raise or promotion at work, even if I thought it would succeed.
7. I’m interested in learning about the history and politics of other countries.
8. I often push myself very hard when trying to achieve a goal.
9. People sometimes tell me that I am too critical of others.
10. I rarely express my opinions in group meetings.
11. I sometimes can’t help worrying about little things.
12. If I knew that I could never get caught, I would be willing to steal a million dollars.
13. I would enjoy creating a work of art, such as a novel, a song, or a painting.
14. When working on something, I don’t pay much attention to small details.
15. People sometimes tell me that I’m too stubborn.
16. I prefer jobs that involve active social interaction to those that involve working alone.
17. When I suffer from a painful experience, I need someone to make me feel comfortable.
18. Having a lot of money is not especially important to me.
19. I think that paying attention to radical ideas is a waste of time.
20. I make decisions based on the feeling of the moment rather than on careful thought.
21. People think of me as someone who has a quick temper.
22. On most days, I feel cheerful and optimistic.
23. I feel like crying when I see other people crying.
24. I think that I am entitled to more respect than the average person is.
25. If I had the opportunity, I would like to attend a classical music concert.
26. When working, I sometimes have difficulties due to being disorganized.
27. My attitude toward people who have treated me badly is “forgive and forget.”
28. I always try to be accurate in my work, even at the expense of time.
29. I am usually quite flexible in my opinions when people disagree with me.
30. The first thing that I always do in a new place is to make friends.
31. I can handle difficult situations without needing emotional support from anyone else.
32. I would get a lot of pleasure from owning expensive luxury goods.
33. I like people who have unconventional views.
34. I make a lot of mistakes because I don’t think before I act.
35. Most people tend to get angry more quickly than I do.
36. Most people are more upbeat and dynamic than I generally am.
37. I feel strong emotions when someone close to me is going away for a long time.
38. I want people to know that I am an important person of high status.
39. I don’t think of myself as the artistic or creative type.
40. People often call me a perfectionist.
41. Even when people make a lot of mistakes, I rarely say anything negative.
42. I sometimes feel that I am a worthless person.
43. Even in an emergency I wouldn’t feel like panicking.
44. I wouldn’t pretend to like someone just to get that person to do favors for me.
45. I find it boring to discuss philosophy.
46. I prefer to do whatever comes to mind, rather than stick to a plan.
47. When people tell me that I am wrong, my first reaction is to argue with them.
48. When I’m in a group of people, I’m often the one who speaks on behalf of the group.
49. I remain unemotional even in situations where most people get very sentimental.
50. I’d be tempted to use counterfeit money, if I were sure I could get away with it.

Scoring of HEXACO–60 Scales (see Table 1 for Facet-Level Scales):

We usually consider traits from a single standpoint.
The five-factor theory: characteristic adaptations

Empirical and Theoretical Status of the Five-Factor Model
Opinions and interpretations by means of which individuals monitor, and reflect on, their personality traits and the personality traits idea in general.
Opinions and interpretations by means of which individuals monitor, and reflect on, their personality traits and the personality traits idea in general.
Reflexive characteristic adaptations: The model

TRAIT

Sergei Shchebetenko (Perm State University)
Reflexive characteristic adaptations: The model

Identity

TRAIT

Sergei Shchebetenko (Perm State University)
Reflexive characteristic adaptations: The model

- Identity
- Meta-perception
- Evaluation

TRAIT
Reflexive characteristic adaptations: The model

Attitudes toward Traits

identity

TRAIT

evaluation

meta-perception
Reflexive characteristic adaptations: The model

Attitudes toward Traits

identity

Meta-Traits

evaluation

trait

meta-perception

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Reflexive characteristic adaptations (RCA): The model

Attitudes toward Traits

identity

Meta-Traits

evaluation

meta-perception

Attitudes toward Meta-Traits

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Bipolar evaluations of a given trait, without direct reference to any person, including the individual her/himself.

Premises:

- attitudes toward emotions (Harmon-Jones et al., 2011), positive and negative valency in the Big Seven model (Almagor et al., 1995; McCrae & Costa, 1995), general evaluative aspect (Bäckström & Björklund, 2014; Peabody, 1970), personal values (Parks-Leduc et al., 2015; Schwartz, 1992).

Test instructions:

Please indicate what you think about the personality characteristics listed below. Do you find the characteristic in question to be positive or negative? It does not matter whether you have this particular characteristic or not: simply evaluate it as it is.
Meta-traits

- Metaperceptual opinions on how significant others see one’s personality

- Premises:
  - meta-insight (Carlson et al., 2011); positions and perspectives of others in the self (Felson, 1985; Gillespie, 2012; Higgins, 1987; Mead, 1934)

Test instructions:

This time, you are asked to indicate what your parents think of you. Do they believe you are a person who possesses a given trait or not? If you think they disagree regarding a given trait, please use an “average value method”.
Meta-attitudes toward traits

- Metaperceptual opinions on what attitudes toward traits significant others have
- Premises:
  - reflected appraisals (Cooley, 1902), ought self (Higgins, 1987)

Test instructions:

This time please indicate what you think your parents think (or thought) about the personality characteristics listed below. Do you believe they find (found) the characteristic in question to be positive or negative? Don’t question whether your opinion is correct: simply make your guesses.
The Russian version (Shchebetenko, 2014) of the Big Five Inventory (John et al., 1991, 2008) to measure the traits

Three modified versions to measure RCA. Were changed:

- instructions,
- scale labels (e.g., 1 (“a very bad trait”) – 5 (“a very good trait”) for attitudes)
- items (1. “…is talkative” => “talkativeness”; 2. “…tends to find fault with others” => “tendency to find fault with others”)
Methodology: sample and outcome criteria

- 1,030 undergraduate university students aged from 17 to 38 years ($M = 19.65$, $SD = 1.72$) including 691 women (67.1%).

- Two criteria:
  - academic achievement
  - online social networking behavior
Online social networking source: Vk.com

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Outcome criteria and personality

- Two criteria:
  - academic achievement --> conscientiousness
    - meta-analyses (McAbee & Oswald, 2013; Poropat, 2009; Richardson, Abraham, & Bond, 2012; Trapmann, Hell, Hirn, & Schuler, 2007)
  - online social networking behavior --> extraversion
    - empirical findings (Gosling et al., 2011; Muscanell & Guadagno, 2012; Ross et al., 2009)
Outcome criteria and personality

- Two criteria:
  - academic achievement --> all five traits – via RCA
  - online social networking --> all five traits – via RCA
Results
Example 1: Neuroticism and online social networking behaviour

N = 830; \( \chi^2 \) (14) = 15.77, p = .328, CFI = .999, RMSEA [90% CI] = .012 [.000; .037]
Neuroticism positively related to users’ activity via meta-neuroticism

N = 830; χ² (14) = 15.77, p = .328, CFI = .999, RMSEA [90% CI] = .012 [.000; .037]
Neuroticism negatively related to the number of likes via attitudes toward neuroticism

N = 830; $\chi^2$ (14) = 15.77, p = .328, CFI = .999, RMSEA [90% CI] = .012 [.000; .037]
Example 2: Neuroticism and academic achievement

N = 739; $\chi^2(12) = 24.70, p < .05$, CFI = .990, RMSEA [90% CI] = .038 [.016; .059]
Neuroticism positively related to standardized tests via meta-neuroticism

N = 739; χ² (12) = 24.70, p < .05, CFI = .990, RMSEA [90% CI] = .038 [.016; .059]
Neuroticism negatively related to standardized tests via attitudes toward neuroticism

N = 739; $\chi^2 (12) = 24.70, p < .05$, CFI = .990, RMSEA [90% CI] = .038 [.016; .059]

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Example 4: Conscientiousness and academic achievement

N = 739; χ² (11) = 15.48, p = .162, CFI = .996, RMSEA [90% CI] = .023 [.000; .048]

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Conscientiousness positively related to university marks via meta-conscientiousness

N = 739; χ² (11) = 15.48, p = .162, CFI = .996, RMSEA [90% CI] = .023 [.000; .048]
Conscientiousness negatively related to standardized tests, directly

N = 739; χ² (11) = 15.48, p = .162, CFI = .996, RMSEA [90% CI] = .023 [.000; .048]
Conscientiousness positively related to standardized tests, via attitudes toward conscientiousness

N = 739; χ² (11) = 15.48, p = .162, CFI = .996, RMSEA [90% CI] = .023 [.000; .048]
An individual may have several standpoints on personality;

These standpoints may be termed reflexive characteristic adaptations in terminology of the five-factor theory

Reflexive characteristic adaptations provided incremental contributions to external criteria – over personality traits

These contributions were either compensatory or amplifying
Thank you for your attention!

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Extraversion and online social networking behavior

χ² (14) = 30.21, p = .007, CFI = .989, AGFI = .977, RMSEA [90% CI] = .037 [.019; .056]
Agreeableness and online social networking behavior

χ² (14) = 49.02, p < .001, CFI = .972, AGFI = .963, RMSEA = .055 [.039; .072]
Conscientiousness and online social networking behavior

\[ \chi^2 (14) = 22.10, \ p = .077, \ CFI = .988, \ AGFI = .987, \ RMSEA = .026 \ [.000; .046] \]
Openness and online social networking behavior

χ² (14) = 50.90, p < .001, CFI = .977, AGFI = .962, RMSEA = .056 [.040; .073]
Extraversion and academic achievement

\[ \chi^2 (12) = 19.12, p = .086, \text{CFI} = .995, \text{AGFI} = .983, \text{RMSEA} = .028 \ [ .000; .051] \]
Agreeableness and academic achievement

χ² (11) = 43.12, p < .001, CFI = .974, AGFI = .958, RMSEA = .063 [.044; .083]
Openness and academic achievement

χ² (2) = 1.58, p = .453, CFI = 1.00, AGFI = .995, RMSEA = .000 [.000; .068]
Personality characteristics and online social network behavior: correlations ($n = 830$)

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Personality characteristics and academic achievement

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<th>Extraversion</th>
<th>Agreeableness</th>
<th>Conscientious.</th>
<th>Neuroticism</th>
<th>Openness</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Math test</td>
<td>-.053</td>
<td>-.056</td>
<td>.072*</td>
<td>-.049</td>
<td>-.037</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Russian language test</td>
<td>-.056</td>
<td>.092**</td>
<td>.084**</td>
<td>-.088**</td>
<td>.009</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>University grades</td>
<td>.060</td>
<td>.103**</td>
<td>.052</td>
<td>-.082*</td>
<td>.031</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Note. Math test (n = 773), Russian language test (n = 985), university grades (n = 764).
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Table. Participants' sex, personality traits, meta-traits and attitudes toward traits as predictors of the participation at Wave 2 (hierarchical logistic regression analysis).</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Predictors</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Step 1, χ²(1) = 5.98, p &lt; .001</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>*Sex (female = 2; male = 1)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Step 2 Δχ²(5) = 25.12, p &lt; .001; The model χ²(6) = 31.09, p &lt; .001</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>*Sex (female = 2; male = 1)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>*Extraversion</td>
</tr>
<tr>
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<tr>
<td>Neuroticism</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Openness</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Step 3 Δχ²(5) = 17.06, p = .004; The model χ²(11) = 48.15, p &lt; .001</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>*Sex (female = 2; male = 1)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Attitude toward extraversion</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>*Attitude toward agreeableness</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Attitude toward conscientiousness</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>*Attitude toward neuroticism</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Attitude toward openness</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Step 4 Δχ²(5) = 22.05, p = .001; The model χ²(16) = 70.19, p &lt; .001</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>*Sex (female = 2; male = 1)</td>
</tr>
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</tr>
<tr>
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</tr>
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<tr>
<td>Meta-neuroticism</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>*Meta-openness</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Note. N = 1,030; The predictors that contributed significantly are in an asterisk.