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A French Translation and Validation of the Durand Adaptive Psychopathic Traits Questionnaire: An Investigation with Community Samples from France and Canada

Guillaume Durand *

Department of Psychiatry and Neuropsychology, Faculty of Health, Medicine, and Life Sciences, Maastricht University, 6211 ER, Maastricht, The Netherlands

* Corresponding author: gdura061@uottawa.ca

Abstract

This study presents a French translation and validation of the Durand Adaptive Psychopathic Traits Questionnaire (DAPTQ), an instrument for assessing adaptive traits known to correlate with the psychopathic personality. Bilingual (French and English) individuals from France and Canada (N = 141, 52% in France, M_{age} = 29.73, SD = 9.09) completed both versions of the DAPTQ (French and English), alongside measurements of perceived stress, trait anxiety, authentic leadership and creativity. Correlation between the DAPTQ total and subscales across versions showed strong associations (r = .84 to .96). The DAPTQ – French version also demonstrated good internal consistency (α = .87), convergent validity, and concurrent validity. These findings support the cross-cultural equivalence of the DAPTQ and therefore its effectiveness as a valid assessment method of adaptive traits.

Keywords:

Durand Adaptive Psychopathic Traits Questionnaire; French translation; France; Canada; psychometrics

1. Introduction

Among the many controversies in the field of psychopathy, the existence of a subtype encompassing adaptive traits is highly debated (Lilienfeld et al., 2012; Lynam & Miller, 2012; Patrick, Venables, & Drislane, 2013; Visser, Ashton, & Pozzebon, 2012). Upon providing a definition of psychopathy, many researchers emphasizes the negative traits associated to psychopathy such as impulsivity, dishonesty, lack of empathy, and aggression (Berg et al., 2013; Lynam & Miller, 2012; Viding, 2004; Walters, Brinkley, Magaletta, & Diamond, 2008; Yildirim & Derksen, 2015). These definitions, characterizing psychopaths as violent, ruthless, criminally prone and irrecoverable individuals, diverge from the initial conception of psychopathy proposed by Cleckley (1941), acknowledging successful psychopaths. Successful psychopaths were initially defined as individuals possessing core psychopathic traits (such as lack of empathy and emotional detachment), but also possessing adaptive traits, such as social charm, low neuroticism, and stress/anxiety resilience (Coid, Freestone, & Ullrich, 2012; Patrick, Fowles, & Krueger, 2009; Sadeh & Verona, 2008). Although the inclusion of the aforementioned adaptive components as key structures of psychopathy is highly debatable, numerous studies provided evidences on a relationship between an increase of psychopathic traits and adaptive traits (Baskin-Sommers, Zeier, & Newman, 2009; Camp, Skeem, Barchard, Lilienfeld, & Poythress, 2013; Dunlop et al., 2011; Durand, 2016; Hall, Benning, & Patrick, 2004; Hare, 1965, 1966; Hare & Thorvaldson, 1970; Uzieblo, Verschuere, Van den Bussche, & Crombez, 2010; Zágon & Jackson, 1994).

Even though numerous instruments include an adaptive component to their conceptualization of psychopathic traits, such as the Psychopathic Personality Inventory (PPI; Lilienfeld & Andrews, 1996) and the Triarchic Measures of Psychopathy (TriPM; Patrick, 2010), no instruments

focuses entirely on adaptive traits. The Durand Adaptive Psychopathic Traits Questionnaire (DAPTQ; Durand, *in press*) aims to fill this gap. The DAPTQ is a 41-item questionnaire assessing nine adaptive traits known to correlate with psychopathic personality traits. The DAPTQ does not assess psychopathy, psychopathic traits, or core adaptive traits of the psychopathic personality, but rather focuses on traits which have shown an association with various measurements of psychopathy and psychopathic personality in previous research. The validity of the DAPTQ was assessed in two worldwide community samples during its development phase, and showed good convergent and discriminant validity with various measures of psychopathic and personality traits.

While the results obtained from the DAPTQ development phase were encouraging, the results were not obtained from a specific culture. The present study hence aims to investigate the psychometric properties of the DAPTQ by taking into account a specific cultural context. More specifically, we translated the DAPTQ to French and administered it among bilingual (French-English) speaking participants in France and in Canada. Similarly to American and British English, Canadian and France French possess a few linguistic differences. Validating the French version of the DAPTQ in both of these samples provided additional data regarding the effect of culture on the DAPTQ. Participants were invited to complete both the French and English version of the DAPTQ, alongside various measurements related to personality traits. We predicted a strong correlation between both versions of the DAPTQ subscales. We also predicted a strong association between the DAPTQ – French version and measures of stress, anxiety, leadership, and creativity.

2. Method

2.1 Participants

This study was approved and given 'exempt' status by the IntegReview Ethical Review Board (Austin, TX, USA), under protocol number 11022016. Previous to beginning the study, all participants provided informed consent. A total of 153 participants were recruited from social media and websites dedicated to psychological research. Inclusion criteria were to be bilingual in French and English, to be over 18 years old, and to be located in either France or Canada. Examination of potential outliers was done by analyzing the stem-and-leafs plot for each subscales used in the present study. Those analyses identified 12 potential outliers, which were removed from the study. The remaining 141 participants consisted of 95 males and 46 females. Participants location was evenly distributed, with 48% participants located in Canada, and 52% located in France. Most participants reported being of Caucasian ethnicity (90%). The participant's mother tongue was either French (70%) or English (30%). A total of 50 participants (36%) reported being currently enrolled as a student in a university. In terms of education, most participants reported having received a Master's degree (31%), a bachelor's degree (27%), a High school diploma (19%), a Doctoral degree (9%) or other (14%). The participants mean age was 29.73 years old (*SD* = 9.09).

2.2 Measures

Measures were completed in the order below. Table 1 and Table 2 provide the mean, standard deviation, and Cronbach's alphas for each measure in this study.

Durand Adaptive Psychopathic Traits Questionnaire (DAPTQ; Durand, *in press*). The DAPTQ is a 41-item self-reported questionnaire, rated from 1 = *Strongly Disagree* to 6 =

Strongly Agree. The DAPTQ provides a total score, along 9 subscales scores: Leadership, Logical Thinking, Composure, Creativity, Fearlessness, Money Smart, Focus, Extroversion, and Management. A higher score represents higher adaptive traits.

Perceived Stress Scale – French version (PSS; Cohen, Kamarck, & Mermelstein, 1983). The PSS is a 10-item self-reported instrument assessing perceived stress in everyday situations. The questionnaire is rated on a 5-point Likert scale (0 = *Never* to 4 = *Very Often*). The French version has been validated in previous samples and offers adequate internal consistency and validity (Bellinghausen, Collange, Botella, Emery, & Albert, 2009; Lesage, Berjot, & Deschamps, 2012).

Authentic Leadership Questionnaire (ALQ; Walumbwa, Avolio, Gardner, Wernsing, & Peterson, 2007). The ALQ is a 16-item self-reported questionnaire assessing leadership on a 5-point Likert Scale (1 = *Strongly Disagree* to 5 = *Strongly Agree*). The ALQ is divided in 4 subscales, assessing different types of leadership attributes: Self-Awareness, Internalized Moral Perspective, Balanced Processing, and Relational Transparency.

Scale of Creative Attributes and Behavior (SCAB; Kelly, 2004). The SCAB is a 20-item questionnaire assessing facets related to creativity using a 7-point Likert scale (1 = *Strongly Disagree* to 7 = *Strongly Agree*). The scale provides a total score and five subscale: Creative Engagement, Creative Cognitive Style, Spontaneity, Tolerance, and Fantasy.

The DAPTQ – French version was completed at the end of the study.

2.3 French translations

The DAPTQ was translated to French by the original author of the DAPTQ, and was back-translated by two researchers, one being familiar with the DAPTQ, the other one being

unfamiliar with it. The back-translations were reviewed by the original author, confirming the previous translation to French. No further change was done to the initial translation.

3. Results

3.1 Preliminary analyses

All participants fully completed all questionnaires, and hence no missing data was reported. A normal distribution was reported on all scales and subscales, with a Skewness range between -0.82 and 0.34 and a Kurtosis range between -0.83 and 0.60. No scale or item was transformed further.

3.2 Location differences

Examination of the DAPTQ total score by location did not identified any significant mean difference for both the English version and French version of the DAPTQ total score. Further analysis of the DAPTQ subscales however identified a few differences. Regarding the DAPTQ – English version, individuals in Canada reported high scores on the Leadership subscale ($F(1, 140) = 10.62$, $p = .001$), on the Focus subscale ($F(1, 140) = 4.68$, $p = .032$), and the Management subscale ($F(1,140) = 9.72$, $p = .002$). An identical trend was observed in the DAPTQ – French version, where individuals in Canada reported higher scores on the Leadership subscale ($F(1, 140) = 10.65$, $p = .001$), on the Focus subscale ($F(1, 140) = 6.24$, $p = .014$), and the Management subscale ($F(1,140) = 19.25$, $p < .001$).

Aside from the mean differences by location observed in the DAPTQ, a few notable differences were observed on the STAI-Y2, the ALQ, and the SCAB. First, individuals from France reported higher scores on the STAI-Y2 ($F(1, 140) = 6.98$, $p = .009$). Second, individuals from Canada

reported higher scores on both the ALQ Total ($F(1, 140) = 12.90$, $p < .001$) and ALQ Relational Transparency subscale ($F(1, 140) = 8.21$, $p = .005$). Third, participants from Canada scored higher on two subscales of the SCAB: Cognitive Styles ($F(1, 140) = 6.86$, $p = .010$) and Spontaneity ($F(1, 140) = 4.25$, $p = .041$).

3.3 Correlation between the French and the English version of the DAPTQ

In order to account for multiple testing and potential type I error, the criterion of $p < .01$ was used to establish statistical significance for all correlational analysis. As shown in Table 1, both version of the questionnaire reported adequate intercorrelation, with all subscales of the English version ($r = .21$ to $.76$) and of the French version ($r = .23$ to $.70$) correlating to their respective total score.

Correlational analysis of the DAPTQ between version support the reliability of the French version, with a correlation between the two total scores of $r = .96$. The correlations between the English and the French version by subscales are as follow: Leadership ($r = .92$), Logical Thinking ($r = .88$), Composure ($r = .92$), Creativity ($r = .93$), Fearlessness ($r = .92$), Money Smart ($r = .91$), Focus ($r = .91$), Extroversion ($r = .96$), and Management ($r = .84$). Examination of the correlations between versions for each of the 41 items revealed only strong correlations ($r = .56$ to $.94$).

3.4 Correlations between the DAPTQ – French version and personality measures

The DAPTQ – French version was correlated to two measures previously used to validate the DAPTQ in its development phase, namely the PSS and the STAI-Y2, and two additional measures assessing leadership (ALQ) and creativity (SCAB). Similar to the results found by Durand (*in press*), the PSS was strongly negatively correlated with the DAPTQ – French version

total (r = -.51) alongside two subscales: Composure (r = -.56) and Management (r = -.50). Similar results were obtained on the STAI-Y2 in the previous study, which showed a strong negative correlation with the DAPTQ – French version total (r = -.70), alongside the two subscales aforementioned: Composure (r = -.69) and Management (r = -.55). All other subscales, at the exception of Logical Thinking and Creativity, displayed a weak to moderate negative correlation with the STAI-Y2 (r = -.24 to -.45).

Additional examination of the DAPTQ – French version and measurements of leadership and creativity further support the validity of the DAPTQ. The DAPTQ – French version showed moderate association with the ALQ total (r = .34) and two of its subscales: Self-awareness (r = .34) and Moral perspective (r = .39). Deeper examination revealed that both the Leadership and the Management subscale correlated with the ALQ total and its subscales (r = .27 to .37), at the exception of the Balanced processing subscale, which did not show any correlation to the DAPTQ or any of its subscale. Several correlations were also observed between the DAPTQ – French version and the SCAB. The DAPTQ – French version displayed positive correlations between its total score and the SCAB total and its subscales, at the exception of the fantasy subscale (r = .22 to .45). Examination of the DAPTQ – French version subscale identified three strong correlations. First, the creativity subscale was positively correlated to the SCAB total (r = .61) and the Engagement subscale (r = .69). Second, Fearlessness displayed a positive correlation with Tolerance (r = .51).

4. Discussion

This study aimed to examine the validity and psychometric properties of the DAPTQ – French version in a French-English bilingual sample of individuals from France and Canada.

Correlational analyses between the DAPTQ – French version and the English version, alongside measures of stress, anxiety, leadership, and creativity support the validity of the French translation of the DAPTQ.

Examination of the effect of location on DAPTQ's score and other measurements yielded interesting results. Participants in Canada reported higher levels of leadership, focus, management, creativity, and lower levels anxiety than participants in France. The effect of location on leadership is particularly robust, being supported by both version of the DAPTQ, alongside the ALQ. Previous findings identified cultural differences in the ALQ, whereas Polish enterprises displayed higher authentic leadership than German enterprises (Furmańczyk, 2010). Similarly to leadership, previous findings also support a cross-cultural difference of STAI scores between various cultures. One study investigated STAI scores between students from America, Turkey, Mexico, and Philippines, and concluded that Filipino students reported the highest scores, while American students reported the lowest scores (Baloğlu, Abbassi, & Masten, 2007). Although this study was not specifically investigating France, or even Europe, the results support overall lower levels of anxiety within Americans, who are culturally similar to Canadians. Despite the few differences observed between individuals in France and in Canada in terms of DAPTQ scores, the consistency of higher scores on the leadership, focus, an management subscales on both version of the DAPTQ further support the validity of the DAPTQ – French version.

Internal consistency reliability of the DAPTQ total score in both versions was acceptable, alongside across its 9 subscales. Although the Management subscale showed the weakest Cronbach's alpha in both version of the DAPTQ, its strong correlation with the DAPTQ total score supports its construct validity. Cronbach's alpha for total score of the STAI-Y2, the ALQ,

and the SCAB were also acceptable. It should however be noted that the French version of the PSS in the present study displayed poor internal consistency reliability, especially compared to the English version used during the development of the DAPTQ, which reported an alpha of .89 (Durand, *in press*).

Inter-construct validation was performed by correlating all DAPTQ subscales to its total scores. Although correlations were slightly weaker in the French version, both version of the DAPTQ displayed a significant correlation between each subscales and their respective total score. Validation of the DAPTQ – French version was further supported by correlating each subscale of both versions, with no Pearson correlation under $r = .84$, and no Pearson correlation under $r = .56$ at the item level.

Examination of correlational analyses between the DAPTQ – French version and measurements of perceived stress, trait anxiety, leadership and creativity further support the DAPTQ as a valid and reliable instrument to measure adaptive traits. Similar to the results obtained during the DAPTQ development, the DAPTQ – French version correlated strongly negatively with both the PSS and the STAI-Y2 (Durand, *in press*). At the subscales level, the DAPTQ's Composure and Management subscales displayed the strongest correlation to the PSS, and the Leadership, Composure, Focus, and Management subscale the strongest correlation to the STAI-Y2. These results corroborate the findings obtained during the development of the DAPTQ.

Comparison of the DAPTQ with the ALQ and the SCAB provided additional information regarding the DAPTQ's validity to measure leadership and creativity. The DAPTQ's Leadership and Extroversion subscales both positively moderately correlated with the ALQ total and three of its subscales: Self-Awareness, Moral Perspective, and Relational Transparency. These results

signify that higher levels of leadership and extroversion as defined by the DAPTQ indicates higher propensity to understand yourself and assess your strengths and weaknesses, higher self-regulation guided by moral standards and values, and higher propensity for an individual to represent himself to others as he is in reality, without any mask (Kernis, 2003; Walumbwa et al., 2007). Similar results were obtained on the DAPTQ total score and the Management subscale, at the exception of a lack of correlation with the Relational Transparency subscale.

In addition to the DAPTQ's total score, multiple of its subscales showed significant associations with the SCAB's subscales. First, Leadership and DAPTQ total score displayed identical trends in terms of association with the SCAB, correlating with its total score and all subscales, at the exception of the Fantasy subscale. Second, Logical Thinking showed an expected negative correlation with Spontaneity, and no other components of creativity. Of notable importance, the DAPTQ's Creativity subscale showed a strong positive correlation with the SCAB and its components, at the exception of the Tolerance subscale. However, Fearlessness displayed a strong positive association with Tolerance, as well as with Spontaneity and the SCAB total. Similarly to Logical Thinking, Money Smart also showed a negative association with Spontaneity, as well as with SCAB total. Lastly, Extroversion correlated positively with Engagement, Spontaneity, Tolerance, and SCAB total. Overall, these results indicates that higher scores on the DAPTQ will result in increased enjoyment of working on creative projects, higher creative cognitive abilities, such as divergent thinking and problem solving, increased excitement seeking, and increased flexibility and openness to others' ideas (Kelly, 2006).

One key limitation of this study is that recruitment was exclusively centered on individuals residing in France or Canada. Although French is one of the official language in both of these countries, validation of the DAPTQ – French version in other francophone countries, such as

Belgium, Monaco, Côte d'Ivoire, Haiti, and French Polynesia, may provide additional results regarding the cross-cultural stability of the DAPTQ. A second limitation is the recruitment method, which was centered on advertising on social media and various websites dedicated to psychological research. Although these recruitment techniques enable to get a wide sample from across both countries, a more specific sample, such as university students from a single university, might provide additional results. Despite these limitations, the present findings are promising as they provide further evidence of the cross-cultural equivalence of the DAPTQ to measure adaptive traits in various populations.

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Table 1

Inter-correlations between the DAPTQ subscales by version ($N = 141$)

Scales	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	Mean (SD)	α
DAPTQ - English version											
1. Leadership										14.31 (4.02)	.87
2. Logical Thinking	-.01									23.23 (4.05)	.84
3. Composure	**.35**	**.22**								19.80 (6.95)	.90
4. Creativity	.13	-.10	-.06							15.89 (4.73)	.86
5. Fearlessness	**.24**	.02	**.39**	.02						19.28 (6.33)	.88
6. Money Smart	-.01	**.41**	**.24**	-.16	-.01					13.57 (3.21)	.77
7. Focus	**.26**	**.27**	**.47**	-.07	**.26**	**.27**				12.41 (4.50)	.91
8. Extroversion	**.64**	-.14	**.28**	.20	.19	.02	.08			19.15 (6.76)	.86
9. Management	**.43**	**.34**	**.52**	-.02	.11	**.37**	**.43**	**.24**		11.72 (2.99)	.71
10. DAPTQ Total	**.65**	**.34**	**.76**	**.21**	**.55**	**.35**	**.59**	**.60**	**.64**	149.37 (23.45)	.89

Scales	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	Mean (SD)	α
DAPTQ - French version											
1. Leadership										14.09 (3.45)	.78
2. Logical Thinking	.03									23.02 (3.73)	.79
3. Composure	**.27**	.21								19.41 (6.42)	.88
4. Creativity	.14	-.15	-.11							15.91 (4.57)	.85
5. Fearlessness	**.28**	-.02	**.40**	.04						19.60 (5.68)	.83
6. Money Smart	-.03	**.43**	.19	-.14	-.03					12.68 (2.94)	.66
7. Focus	**.26**	**.28**	**.42**	-.05	.21	**.33**				12.36 (3.91)	.86
8. Extroversion	**.56**	-.11	.20	**.22**	**.22**	-.04	.11			18.99 (6.44)	.83
9. Management	**.41**	**.28**	**.42**	-.04	.08	**.32**	**.48**	.15		11.65 (2.76)	.59
10. DAPTQ Total	**.63**	**.33**	**.70**	**.23**	**.56**	**.33**	**.60**	**.59**	**.58**	147.74 (20.84)	.87

Note. Bold indicates $p < .01$, two-tailed.

Table 2

Correlation between the DAPTQ - French version and personality traits ($N = 141$)

Scales	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	Mean (SD)	α
PSS												
Total	-.14	**-.28**	**-.56**	.03	-.17	**-.26**	**-.39**	-.14	**-.50**	**-.51**	17.48 (4.48)	.55
STAI-Y2												
Total	**-.43**	-.21	**-.69**	-.02	**-.28**	**-.24**	**-.45**	**-.35**	**-.55**	**-.70**	43.60 (11.62)	.93
ALQ												
Self-awareness	**.37**	.18	.09	.17	.16	.01	.08	**.27**	**.32**	**.34**	14.27 (2.68)	.55
Moral perspective	**.37**	.14	.16	.18	.16	-.02	.18	**.34**	**.24**	**.39**	15.21 (2.20)	.46
Balanced processing	-.18	.02	-.05	.06	.11	-.02	.01	-.02	-.06	-.01	14.62 (2.26)	.56
Relational transparency	**.31**	-.02	.02	.21	-.01	-.13	.01	**.34**	.08	.19	13.40 (2.86)	.58
Total	**.34**	.11	.08	**.23**	.15	-.06	.09	**.36**	**.22**	**.34**	57.51 (6.78)	.72
SCAB												
Engagement	**.24**	-.09	.05	**.69**	.10	-.07	.11	**.31**	.07	**.34**	18.09 (5.26)	.80
Cognitive styles	**.39**	.10	-.01	**.34**	.07	-.17	.03	.13	.18	**.22**	21.02 (3.74)	.74
Spontaneity	**.36**	**-.38**	.14	**.22**	**.35**	**-.35**	-.03	**.41**	.05	**.26**	14.82 (4.63)	.73
Tolerance	**.26**	-.01	**.28**	.19	**.51**	-.14	.18	**.33**	.19	**.45**	26.14 (3.93)	.70
Fantasy	-.09	-.11	-.16	**.34**	-.01	-.05	-.20	.02	-.14	-.07	21.85 (4.30)	.69
Total	**.33**	-.15	.05	**.61**	**.27**	**-.23**	.01	**.37**	.08	**.34**	98.53 (13.24)	.81

Note. Bold indicates $p < .01$, two-tailed.