Development of the 12-Item Sentence Completion Test Measuring Ego Development in Junior and Senior High School Athletes: The Reliability and Validity

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Abstract

One notable issue in examining the effect of sports experience on personality development is the choice of target variable. This study focused on ego development as conceptualized by Loevinger (1976; Loevinger & Wessler, 1970), and was conducted to develop the 12-item Sentence Completion Test (SCT) measuring ego development in athletes.

First, 12 items were selected from the 30-item Japanese version of the SCT (Sasaki, 1980a, 1981a, 1981b) by analyzing the 30-item SCT data obtained from 62 university students. This considered the inter-rater agreement for each item, the correlation between item rating and total protocol rating (TPR), and theme of each item. The TPR for the 12 items correlated highly with the TPR for the 30 items (r=.79).

Then, the 12-item SCT was administered to junior and senior high school athletes (N=929). The inter-rater agreement for the 12 items ranged from 76 to 96%. The alpha coefficient for the 12 items was 78. The TPR for the 12 items correlated significantly with grade (male athletes, r=.39; female athletes, r=.29).

These results suggest that the reliability and validity of measuring ego development in athletes using the 12-item SCT are acceptable. Future research using the 12-item SCT may cast more light on the mechanisms by which sports experience influences ego development.

Key words: ego development, 12-item sentence completion test, athletes