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Abstract

Acculturation is the social and psychological adaptations a person makes due to continuous interaction with individuals from different cultures. Acculturation is important because it has been linked to several psychological disorders. To compare cultures in terms of the effect of acculturation on psychological health, researchers need a measure that can be used across cultures. The General Ethnicity Questionnaire (GEQ; Levenson, 1994) was developed to assess several domains (e.g., language and food) within the context of acculturation and can be used across cultures. A previous study conducted determined acceptable, however, the validity results were mixed. Some groups had moderate positive correlations between the GEQ and other acculturation measures, but for some groups, the correlations were low. These mixed results may be because different measures focus on different domains. The current study examined the factor structures of each of the measures used in this study to determine if this could explain the results. Preliminary results did confirm that various domains are used in the measures of acculturation which do not all match. Furthermore, domains that appear to be similar are not always related. Complete results should be available in Spring/Summer 2010. Future research needs to determine the validity of the domains within the acculturation scales in order to provide an accurate depiction of acculturation levels and their relationship to other factors of well-being. It will also be important to explore the importance of each domain to the process of acculturation.