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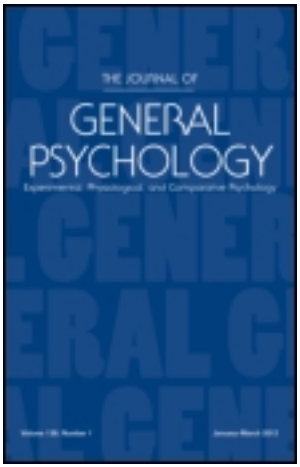

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Examination of Personality Characteristics in a Turkish Sample: Development of Basic Personality Traits Inventory

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Examination of Personality Characteristics in a Turkish Sample: Development of Basic Personality Traits Inventory

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ABSTRACT. The aim of the present study was to test the cross-cultural validity of the five-factor nature of personality. For this aim, an indigenous, psychometrically strong instrument measuring the basic personality dimensions within Turkish culture and language was developed through three consecutive studies. The first study aimed to reveal the adjectives that have been most frequently used to define people in the Turkish culture. In the second study, factor analysis of these personality characteristics revealed big five personality factors, along with the sixth factor, which had been called as the Negative Valence factor. The adjectives that most strongly represented and differentiated each factor constituted 45-item "Basic Personality Traits Inventory". Finally, in the third study, psychometric characteristics of the Basic Personality Traits Inventory were examined. Factor structure and psychometric properties of this instrument confirmed that five-factor nature of personality may not hold true in every culture.

Keywords: five factor model of personality, personality traits, psycholexical approach to personality, scale development

EARLY PERSONALITY THEORISTS FOCUSED on the similarities between individuals. However, lately researchers have begun to be interested in individual differences (McAdams, 1992). As an alternative approach, the five Factor Model (FFM) of Personality, emerged to study variations among individuals that lead to consistent cognitive, emotional, and behavioral patterns, which are called *traits* (Costa & Widiger, 2005). McCrae and Costa (2003) define *traits* as degrees of variation along dimensions (factors) that are hierarchically organized and have emerged from native language, in accordance with the lexical hypothesis.

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The lexical hypothesis suggests that every culture produces its own trait descriptive adjectives to communicate individual differences. Being inspired by Sir Francis Galton's foresight of the hypothesis, throughout the 70-year history, studies focused on depicting the adjectives that systematically emerged across cultures to define traits and higher order factors (Digman & Inouye, 1986). The construction process gained acceleration, especially with the substantial efforts of Lewis R. Goldberg and the development of personality measures reflecting FFM (McCrae & John, 1992). The intensive taxonomic research of Goldberg concluded the robustness of the five orthogonal factors in English, both in self- and peer-rated measures, regardless of the applied factor analytic method (Goldberg, 1990, 1993). These factors are Surgency (Extraversion), Agreeableness, Conscientiousness, Emotional Instability (Neuroticism) and Intellect (Culture/Openness). Peabody and Goldberg (1989) indicated that these five factors were consistent with the common premise of almost all theories of personality in terms of depicting the central human concerns regarding Power, Love, Work, Affect, and Intellect, which corresponded to Extraversion, Agreeableness, Conscientiousness, Neuroticism, and Openness respectively.

The relationship between FFM constructs and indicators of subjective well being, as well as quality of interpersonal relationships, has been extensively studied in the literature. For instance, high levels of Neuroticism was consistently found to be associated with a wide range of variables signaling psychological distress (Costa & Widiger, 2005), such as negative affectivity (McFatter, 1994; Weinstock & Whisman, 2006), proneness to worry (Tamir, 2005), and emotion-focused coping strategies that promote avoidance and wishful thinking (Bouchard, 2003). The predisposition to negative feelings and the interpersonal effects of Neuroticism were widely studied in the close-relations literature (e.g., Ben-Ari & Lavee, 2005) to investigate the contribution of Neuroticism to interpersonal adjustment. Findings consistently revealed that Neuroticism negatively contributed to the quality of relationships, not only directly but also in interaction with many other variables (Ben-Ari & Lavee, 2005).

Contrary to Neuroticism, the literature on Extraversion attended especially to the relation of the trait with positive affectivity (Côté & Moskowitz, 1998; Lucas & Baird, 2004; Lucas, Diener, Grob, Suh, & Shao, 2000; McFatter, 1994; Robinson, Solberg, Vargas, & Tamir, 2003). Congruent with their affective state, extraverted individuals were found to appraise agreeable social interactions more positively than introverts (Côté & Moskowitz, 1998). However, the interaction between low Extraversion and high Neuroticism was found to indicate proneness to depression and anxiety disorders (Jorm, Christensen, Henderson, Jacomb, Korten, & Rodgers, 2000).

Conscientiousness, which points out individual differences in terms of responsibility, reliability, organization, and goal-directed behavior (George & Zhou, 2001; Costa & Widiger, 2005), was found to be closely related to acquirement of strategies to cope with frustration coming from objects and tasks

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(Jensen-Campbell, Rosselli et al., 2002). Likewise, there have been attempts in the literature to define Agreeableness in terms of frustration toleration and self-control (Jensen-Campbell, Adams et al., 2002). Moreover, several researchers denoted that Agreeableness was associated with a variety of interpersonal strategies, as the quality of social interactions is more important than self-centered goals for highly agreeable individuals (Wilkowski, Robinson, & Meier, 2006). Finally, although previous research found almost no relationship between Openness to Experience and psychological well being, recent studies indicated that Openness to Experience contributed to psychological well being, especially in terms of practicing problem-focused coping strategies (Bouchard, 2003).

Studying basic personality dimensions in Turkey is crucially important, considering rapidly changing sociopolitical attitudes, mobility dynamics, collectivistic nature, and the bridging structure of the country between traditionalism and modernism (Kağıtçıbaşı, 1973, 2001). This bridging role has much more to do with perceived autonomy and interpersonal relatedness. In individualistic cultures people are predominantly presumed to be independent from the society, and they mainly focus on their own preferences and benefits. On the other hand, for the people from collectivist cultures, the group they belong to seems to be very important. They define themselves within this group, and they give importance to the benefit of the society. Collectivistic values have been quite important for Turkey, though individualistic values have begun to influence the culture (Kağıtçıbaşı, 1973, 1983, 2001). Throughout this process, while gaining some individualistic values, Turkey still keeps on valuing collectivistic attitudes. As a result of a chain of studies conducted in Turkey, İmamoğlu (1998, 2003) characterizes this combination as the "balanced integration differentiation" type and refers to it as the fittest and healthiest combination, where people remain related with others and can simultaneously be independent from others, thus keeping his/her autonomous manners. Thus, the healthiest people are defined as those who are related but not dependent. Through relatedness, people tend to consider others' viewpoints and try to satisfy their demands, but not at the cost of their own independence. Though individualistic values are actively influencing the Turkish culture, this influence does not take place via sacrificing relatedness. Hence, the motto seems to be, "It is not worth sacrificing your interpersonal relations solely for your personal welfare; the best way is trying to find a balance between these two and promoting both societal and personal welfare." These attitudes are expected to influence one's outlook on life hence his/her personality features. On the other hand, traditional personality measures are usually developed in western countries that adopt individualistic values over collectivistic values. Apparently, in order to improve our knowledge on personality, there is a strong need to understand personality structures in other cultures that are not solely individualistic.

Besides Gülgöz (2002), who adapted NEO-PI-R to Turkish, Somer (1998) and Somer and Goldberg (1999) also indicated that five basic domains of personality were evident in Turkish culture. Though translation and adaptation studies

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generally confirmed the five-factor nature of personality, development of new questionnaires with indigenous concepts and expressions of the particular culture should be given a special emphasis. This kind of study will shed further light on the nature and number of factors reflecting personality dimensions. For example, ending up with similar 5 dimensions will confirm and strengthen the importance of FFM; whereas ending up with different number of factors and/or different contents will give us further information regarding cultural differences on personality. Consistently, studies from various cultures indicated inconsistencies across individual traits underlying the factors (Zuckerman, Kuhlman, Joirman, Teta, & Kraft, 1993). Therefore, while studying basic personality dimensions considering the lexical and cultural differences seem to be of great importance. For this reason, instead of adapting the inventories that had been developed in a different culture and language, inventories should be developed with indigenous concepts and expressions in order to further understand the cross-cultural varieties and the underlying dimensions of the FFM.

Methodological applications are also of great importance. Traditionally, the individual traits are selected through dictionaries. Inevitably, different cultures will have similar traits, though they may have different details for each trait. That is, while two traits represent relatively independent meanings in one culture, in another they may be synonyms. Moreover, other than the existence of each individual trait in one culture, the frequency of usage of these traits in everyday language is also quite important. It is well known that, for paper-pencil tests, everyone reading the item should understand the same thing, otherwise response variations may be just the reflections of different interpretations, which would threaten the validity of the scale. At this point, asking people for the adjectives they commonly use might be an alternative method. On the other hand, the shortcomings of this method would be not being able to represent a wide range of possible traits. To overcome this shortcoming, the present study suggests a new procedure, in which participants were asked to generate traits that pertained to six emotions. Through this procedure, the aim was depicting frequently used words in everyday language and spreading these traits widely enough to cover the characteristics of people with different personality styles and interpersonal attitudes. Ekman and his colleagues (Ekman & Friesen, 1969; Ekman, Friesen, & Ellsworth, 1982) argue that we have six basic emotions that are biologically universal to all human beings. These six basic emotions are happiness, sadness, anger, surprise, disgust, and fear. Thus, in this suggested method, participants were initially asked to identify at least one person for each basic emotions category by considering their feelings about that person. Afterwards, they were asked to report at least five adjectives/traits for each category of people representing different basic emotions.

Thus, by using the procedure suggested above, the present study aimed to examine the factor structure of the personality traits in the Turkish culture. For this aim, three consecutive studies were conducted. The aim of the first study was to depict the most frequently used person-descriptive adjectives in Turkish

culture. The second study aimed at selecting the items from the list of personality characteristics generated in the first study, so as to determine the final form of the Basic Personality Traits Inventory. Finally, the aim of Study 3 was to investigate the psychometric characteristics of the Basic Personality Traits Inventory, initially through examining its factor-structure. Following the factor structure, reliability (internal consistency, test-retest reliability) and validity (convergent, divergent, and discriminant validity) of the inventory was established in Study 3.

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Study 1

Study 1 was the pilot study. This pilot study aimed to establish the initial list of "personality characteristics" that would reveal the Turkish adjectives that were frequently used to describe people. For these adjectives to cover a broad range of possible adjectives, participants were asked to list the adjectives they have used to describe the people for whom they had different emotions. These emotions included six basic emotions proposed by Ekman, Friesen, and Ellsworth (1982), which were happiness, sadness, anger, surprise, disgust, and fear.

Method

Sample

Participants were 100 undergraduate students from various departments of the Middle East Technical University, Ankara, Turkey. They were 73 females and 27 males, whose ages ranged from 18 to 35, with a mean age of 21.86 (SD = 2.52).

Procedure

The participants were asked to list as many adjectives as possible that they have used to describe different people who led them experience the six basic emotions (i.e., happiness, sadness, anger, surprise, disgust, and fear). This method was used to capture the possible diversities among the characteristics of different individuals.

Results

Among the obtained objectives, some had very similar meanings and some others were even synonyms. After selecting only one adjective for the synonyms or similar words, we ended up with 250 adjectives. Among those 250 adjectives, the "slang" expressions and the ones reflecting physical characteristics were further excluded. Thus, at the final step, there were 226 adjectives that made up the "List of Personality Characteristics."

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Study 2

The aim of this study was to examine the factor structure of the "List of Personality Characteristics" that had been obtained from the pilot study and to decide on the items that most strongly represented different dimensions of these personality characteristics, so that the items of the final measure, which was called as the "Basic Personality Traits Inventory," could be established. Thus, this second study aimed at reducing the initial List of Personality Characteristics to a representative content. To attain this representativeness, rather than studying only with university students, an adult population with different demographic characteristics was employed.

Method

Sample

The sample consisted of 510 participants, of which 55.9% ($n = 285$) were females and 44.1% were males ($n = 225$). The ages of the participants varied between 18 and 57 ($M = 22.55$, $SD = 5.15$). The participants were recruited from four different provinces of Turkey: Ankara, İstanbul, İzmir, and Antalya.

Instrument and Procedure

The participants were asked to rate the 226 adjectives on the "List of Personality Characteristics" that had been generated in the pilot study by using a 5-point Likert type scale from 1, "this characteristic does not represent me at all," to 5, "this characteristic represents me very well."

Results

Items of the List of Personality Characteristics were subjected to varimax rotated principle components factor analysis. Examination of the scree-plot and item distribution supported six-factor solution. The eigenvalues of those factors were 18.78, 15.22, 11.96, 11.26, 9.78, and 7.79; and they explained 8.34, 6.77, 5.31, 5.01, 4.35, and 3.46%s of the variance respectively. These factors included five basic personality dimensions that were consistent with the literature. Moreover, an additional factor that was reflecting negative personality characteristics, which was also in harmony with the literature, was extracted. From these adjectives, the ones having the highest loading under the factor where it was accepted and also having relatively lower loadings under the other factors were selected. As a result of this selection, there were 8 items representing Extraversion with item loadings ranging from .63 to .81, 8 items representing Conscientiousness with item loadings ranging from .49 to .77, 8 items representing Agreeableness with item loadings ranging from .53 to .68, 9 items representing Neuroticism with item loadings

ranging from .44 to .84, 6 items representing Openness to Experience with item loadings ranging from .50 to .70, and 6 items representing Negative Valence dimension with item loadings ranging from .40 to .66. To conclude, the "Basic Personality Traits Inventory" was decided to be composed of these 45 items. Internal consistencies (i.e., Cronbach's alpha coefficients) of these factors were .85, .74, .83, .81, .65, and .69 respectively for Extraversion, Conscientiousness, Agreeableness, Neuroticism, Openness, and Negative Valence dimensions of personality.

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Study 3

This third study aimed to examine the psychometric characteristics of the Basic Personality Traits Inventory (BPTI), which had been finalized in Study 2. Thus, in this final study, following the confirmation of factor structure of the BPTI, reliability and validity studies were conducted concerning these factors. As for the reliability of the six factors of the inventory, item-total and internal consistency coefficients were examined, along with the test-retest reliability coefficients. As for the validity studies besides the structural validity of the inventory, convergent validity, divergent validity, and discriminant validity were examined through the correlations the factors revealed, with conceptually related measures like self-esteem, social anxiety, state-trait anxiety, depression, positive and negative affect, perceived social support, ways of coping, and reassurance seeking.

Method

Sample

Participants were 454 undergraduate students, selected from various departments of Middle East Technical University, Ankara, Turkey. 69.2% ($n = 314$) of the participants were female and 30.8% ($n = 140$) were male, with ages ranging from 17 to 32 ($M = 21.04$, $SD = 1.81$).

Instruments

Basic Personality Traits Inventory (BPTI)

The items of BPTI were determined in Study 2. The BPTI revealed six separate personality factors, named extraversion, conscientiousness, agreeableness, neuroticism, openness to experience and negative valence. The inventory consists of 45 items rated on a 5-point Likert-type scale.

Rosenberg Self-Esteem Scale (RSE; Rosenberg, 1965)

The scale is composed of 10 items that are rated on a 5-point Likert-type scale from (1) strongly disagree to (5) strongly agree. Higher scores reflected higher self-esteem. The scale was adapted into Turkish by Çuhadaroğlu (1986), and she

found reliability and validity coefficients of the scale to be comparable to the original values.

***Beck Depression Inventory* (BDI; Beck, Rush, Shaw, & Emery, 1979)**

The inventory is a reliable and well-validated 21-item self-report measure of depressive symptoms. This inventory was adapted into Turkish by Tegin (1980) and Hisli (1988, 1989), with reliability and validity coefficients comparable to the original values.

***Liebowitz Social Anxiety Scale* (LSAS; Liebowitz, 1987)**

The LSAS is a 24-item, originally clinician-administrated scale evaluating a wide range of social situations in which social phobic people have difficulties. The scale has been shown to work fairly reliably as a self-report instrument. Each item is rated separately for "fear or anxiety" (from 0 = none to 3 = severe) and for "avoidance behavior" (from 0 = never to 3 = usually). Thus, the scale yields two subscale scores, which are for "Fear or Anxiety" and "Avoidance," and a whole scale score. The internal consistency of the scale is quite satisfactory with Cronbach's alphas ranging from .81 to .92 (Heimberg et al., 1999). The scale has been shown to discriminate between subtypes of social anxiety disorder (Brown, Heimberg, & Juster, 1995; Holt, Heimberg, & Hope, 1992), and it has a good clinical utility (Holt, et al., 1992). The Turkish version of LSAS was adapted by Soykan, Özgüven, and Gençöz (2003), and their study indicated strong psychometric characteristics for this scale.

***Reassurance-Seeking Scale* (RSS; Coyne, 1976)**

The RSS is one of the four components of The Depressive Interpersonal Relationships Inventory that assesses variables described by Coyne (1976). The scale is composed of 4 items rated on a 7-point Likert-type scale from (1) "no, not at all" to (7) "yes, very much." Higher scores imply higher reassurance seeking. The Turkish adaptation of the scale was done by Gençöz and Gençöz (2005).

***State-Trait Anxiety Inventory* (STAI; Spielberger, Gorsuch, & Lushene, 1970)**

STAI, which consists of two subscales regarding state and trait anxiety, was originally developed by Spielberger et al. (1970). Each subscale is composed of 20 items rated on a 5-point Likert-type scale. The scale's Turkish adaptation was conducted by Öner and LeCompte (1985), with strong reliability and validity coefficients.

***Ways of Coping Inventory* (WCI; Folkman & Lazarus, 1980, 1985)**

The original Ways of Coping Checklist (Folkman & Lazarus, 1980) includes 68 items with a yes-no response style, and the items refer to a broad range of cognitive and behavioral strategies used by people to cope with stressful situations. Nevertheless, these items did not cover superstitious beliefs and fatalism, though

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Turkish people are quite tentative to use these coping styles. Considering this gap, Siva (1991) included six additional items representing these domains, so that, items of the Turkish form of WCI added up to 74 items. Similar to Folkman and Lazarus (1985), who utilized a 4-point Likert scale in their revised version of Ways of Coping, Siva (1991), changed the response style into 5-point Likert scale for the Turkish version of the scale. An examination of hierarchical dimensions of this inventory revealed three main domains of coping as problem-focused coping, emotion-focused coping, and seeking social support (Gençöz, Gençöz, & Bozo, 2006). These coping domains revealed satisfactory psychometric characteristics (for the details, see Gençöz et al., 2006).

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Positive and Negative Affect Schedule (PANAS; Watson, Clark, & Tellegen, 1988)

PANAS includes two scales, named as Positive Affect (PA) and Negative Affect (NA), each consists of 10 items to be rated on a 5-point scale (for reliability and validity information, see Watson, Clark, & Carey, 1988; Watson, Clark, & Tellegen, 1988). PA measures the extent to which a person feels enthusiastic, active, and alert; NA measures the extent to which a person experiences subjective distress, such as anger, disgust, guilt, and fear. PANAS is adapted into Turkish by Gençöz (2000) with sufficient reliability and validity coefficients.

Multidimensional Scale of Perceived Social Support (MSPSS; Zimet, Dahlen, Zimet, & Farley, 1988)

MSPSS has 12 items that assessperceived availability of social support. Items are rated on a 7-point scale ranging from (1) "very strongly disagree" to (7) "very strongly agree". The scale is a reliable and well-validated measure (Zimet et al., 1988). This inventory is adopted into Turkish by Eker and Arkar (1995) with reliability and validity coefficients that are comparable to the original values.

Procedure

After receiving the informed consents, the participants were administered the questionnaires in random order. Participants were asked to fill out the questionnaires in groups of approximately 30 students. Following the application, subjects were informed about the aim of the study. The test-retest reliability of the Basic Personality Traits Inventory is conducted by re-administering the scale to 134 participants (19 female and 115 male) after a 3-week interval.

Results

Before examining the internal consistency and test-retest reliability coefficients of the scale, construct validity has been examined to reveal the factor structure of the BPTI. Following these analyses, convergent validity, divergent validity, and discriminant validity of the inventory were analyzed.

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Construct Validity of the Basic Personality Traits Inventory

Items of the BPTI were subjected to both varimax and oblique rotated principle components factor analysis. Consistent with the results of Study 2, both analyses conducted with 45 items revealed five basic personality factors (i.e., extraversion, conscientiousness, agreeableness, neuroticism, and openness to experience) and also the 6th factor indicating "one's negative self-attributions," which was named as "Negative Valence" and supported by the recent literature (Durrett, & Trull, 2005). According to the varimax rotation the eigenvalues of these 6 factors were 5.13, 4.21, 4.17, 4.13, 3.38, and 2.95 respectively. These factors totally explained 53.25% of the variance. The items had factor loadings varying from .84 to .40, under the factors they represented. For the details of the factor structure of BPTI, see Table 1.

Reliability Studies of the Basic Personality Traits Inventory

Internal Reliability Coefficients

The internal consistency coefficients (i.e., Cronbach's alpha coefficients) and the ranges for the item-total correlations of the Basic Personality Traits Inventory are provided in Table 2-A and Table 2-B, respectively. As can be followed from Table 2-A, internal reliability coefficients for the six factors were fairly strong, ranging between .71 and .89. Besides, the item-total correlation coefficients for these six factors ranged between .32 and .77 (see Table 2-B).

Test-Retest Reliability

The test-retest reliability coefficients for six factors were found to be ranging between .71 and .84. Test-retest reliability values for each factor are provided in Table 2-C.

Validity Studies of the Basic Personality Traits Inventory

Considering the convergent validity, divergent validity, and discriminant validity of the Basic Personality Traits Inventory, correlations of various scales with the six factors of the inventory were examined. Thus, the correlations that the Basic Personality Traits Inventory revealed with Rosenberg Self Esteem Scale, Beck Depression Inventory, State-Trait Anxiety Inventory, Liebowitz Social Anxiety Scale, Ways of Coping Inventory, Positive-Negative Affect Scale, Multidimensional Scale of Perceived Social Support, and Reassurance Seeking Scale were investigated (see Table 3).

Convergent Validity

Convergent validity of Extraversion (E), Conscientiousness (C), Agreeableness (A), and Openness (O) dimensions of personality was supported via significant correlations these dimensions had with self-esteem, problem-focused coping,

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TABLE 1. Varimax Rotated Factor Loadings of the Basic Personality Traits Inventory Items

	I	II	III	IV	V	VI
I. Extraversion						
Timid (Çekingen)	**.81**	−.01	.01	.09	−.24	.16
Withdrawn (İçine kapanık)	**.79**	−.02	−.05	.11	−.15	.16
Shy (Utangaç)	**.70**	.08	.10	.07	−.26	.12
Talkative (Konuşkan)	**−.70**	.10	.31	.13	.13	.14
Lethargic (Durgun)	**.66**	−.15	−.06	.05	−.13	.02
Enterprising (Girişken)	**−.65**	.22	.29	−.02	.31	.10
Cold (Soğuk)	**.64**	−.08	−.35	.11	.14	.08
Passive (Pasif)	**.63**	−.24	−.19	.08	−.16	.19
II. Conscientiousness						
Self-disciplined (Disiplinli)	−.05	**.77**	−.01	−.01	.15	−.01
Tidy (Düzenli)	−.01	**.73**	.10	−.06	−.03	−.06
Hard-working (Çalışkan)	−.11	**.69**	.10	−.08	.19	−.07
Prudent (Tedbirli)	.05	**.69**	.16	−.06	.09	.03
Fussy (Titiz)	.00	**.69**	.17	.00	.00	−.05
Determined (Azimli)	−.17	**.65**	.14	−.05	.30	.05
Irresponsible (Sorumsuz)	.22	**−.61**	−.03	.11	.06	.38
Lazy (Üşengeç)	.30	**−.49**	.01	.31	−.02	.07
III. Agreeableness						
Sincere (İçten)	−.09	.06	**.68**	−.06	.22	−.32
Compassionate (Sevecen)	−.27	.09	**.67**	−.03	.11	.04
Genial (Canayakın)	−.39	.10	**.66**	.05	.17	−.03
Well intentioned (İyi niyetli)	.08	.10	**.65**	−.10	.18	−.33
Philanthropic (Yardımsever)	−.01	.05	**.63**	−.08	.10	−.21
Tolerant (Hoşgörülü)	.01	.08	**.60**	−.20	.13	−.09
Sharer (Paylaşımcı)	−.21	.10	**.57**	−.09	−.00	−.21
Sensitive (Duyarlı)	−.05	.29	**.53**	−.08	.01	−.16
IV. Neuroticism						
Nervous (Sinirli)	.09	−.03	−.15	**.84**	.01	−.01
Aggressive (Agresif)	.10	−.09	−.23	**.78**	.07	.01
Angry (Kızgın)	.11	−.05	−.22	**.76**	−.06	.06
Temperamental (Huysuz)	.12	−.15	−.23	**.63**	.05	.06
Impatient (Sabırsız)	−.11	−.15	.06	**.60**	−.11	.13
Capricious (Kaprisli)	.04	−.04	−.08	**.59**	.01	.24
Impetuous (Aceleci)	−.22	.01	.11	**.52**	−.08	.10
Touchy (Alıngan)	.29	.09	.14	**.46**	−.28	.17
Worried (Kaygılı)	.26	−.08	.05	**.44**	−.40	.10
V. Openness to Experience						
Self-confident (Kendinden emin)	−.27	.21	.11	−.11	**.70**	−.13
Self-assured (Kendine güvenen)	−.38	.22	.05	.00	**.68**	−.08
Brave (Cesur)	−.31	−.01	.11	.09	**.66**	−.06
Creative (Yaratıcı)	−.07	.17	.24	−.06	**.63**	.08
Capable (Kabiliyetli)	.02	.21	.31	−.04	**.63**	−.03

(Continued on next page)

TABLE 1. Varimax Rotated Factor Loadings of the Basic Personality Traits Inventory Items *(Continued)*

	I	II	III	IV	V	VI
VI. Negative Valence						
Ill-mannered (Görgüsüz)	.12	−.11	−.20	.03	−.10	**.66**
Pretentious (Yapmacık)	.06	−.09	−.16	.05	−.17	**.64**
Rude (Terbiyesiz)	.03	−.23	−.19	.14	.06	**.64**
Backstabbing (İçten pazarlıklı)	.08	.04	−.25	.05	.05	**.63**
Greedy (Aç gözlü)	−.01	.01	−.10	.22	−.03	**.59**
Hidebound (Sabit fikirli)	.15	.06	−.01	.32	.02	**.40**
Eigenvalue	5.13	4.21	4.17	4.13	3.38	2.95
Explained Variance (%)	11.39	9.36	9.26	9.17	7.52	6.55

Notes. (1) I: Extraversion, II: Conscientiousness, III: Agreeableness, IV: Neuroticism, V: Openness to Experience, VI: Negative Valence.
(2) In parenthesis, original Turkish items are provided.
(3) The factor loadings printed in bold represent the factors on which the items are accepted.

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positive affect, and perceived social support. Regarding the convergent validity of Neuroticism (N) and Negative Valance (NV) dimensions, significant correlations of these personality dimensions with social anxiety, depression, reassurance seeking, trait anxiety and negative affect was noticeable.

Divergent Validity

Divergent validity findings were also parallel with the expectations. E, C, A, and O dimensions of personality had significant negative correlations with social anxiety, depression, trait anxiety, and negative affect. N and NV dimensions of personality, on the other hand, had significant negative correlations with self-esteem, problem-focused coping and Positive Affect; though the correlation between NV and PA was quite low ($r = -.11$, $p < .05$).

Discriminant Validity

Discriminant validity was particularly salient for emotion focused coping, which had insignificant relationships with all dimensions of personality, but NV. Reassurance seeking revealed either very low or insignificant correlations with E, C, A, and O dimensions of personality. Finally, indirect coping (characterized by seeking social support) had insignificant or very low correlations with the C, N, and O dimensions of personality.

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TABLE 2. Reliability Information Regarding Basic Personality Traits Inventory

	Extraversion	Conscientiousness	Agreeableness	Neuroticism	Openness to Experience	Negative Valence
A. Internal-Consistency Coefficients	.89	.85	.85	.83	.80	.71
B. Item-Total Correlation Range	.57–.77	.46–.66	.49–.66	.43–.72	.41–.68	.32–.54
C. Test-Retest Reliability	.84*	.80*	.71*	.81*	.83*	.72*

*$p < .001$.

TABLE 3. Correlational Structure of the Basic Personality Traits Inventory with Other Measures

	E	C	A	N	O	NV
RSE	.42***	.37***	.38***	−.36***	.60***	−.38***
LSAS-FA	−.44***	−.18***	−.25***	.32***	−.48***	.19***
LSAS-A	−.45***	−.23***	−.28***	.25***	−.43***	.24***
BDI	−.30***	−.25***	−.26***	.41***	−.35***	.27***
RS	−.11*	−.04	−.06	.31***	−.11*	.27***
STAI-S	−.28***	−.25***	−.26***	.44***	−.38***	.25***
STAI-T	−.42***	−.26***	−.33***	.51***	−.59***	.29***
COPE_PROBLEM	.37***	.36***	.35***	−.43***	.51***	−.28***
COPE_EMOTION	−.04	.01	.05	.08	.01	.24***
COPE_INDIRECT	.28***	.10*	.34***	.01	.02	−.16***
PA	.47***	.37***	.39***	−.18***	.60***	−.11*
NA	−.37***	−.20***	−.23***	.59***	−.35***	.35***
SS	.36***	.10*	.35***	−.14**	.25***	−.26***

*$p < .05$, **$p < .01$, ***$p < .001$.

Note. For all coefficients, N = 454. E: Extraversion, C: Conscientiousness, A: Agreeableness, N: Neuroticism, O: Openness to Experience, NV: Negative Valence, RSE: Rosenberg Self Esteem Scale; LSAS-FA: Liebowitz Social Anxiety Scale – Fear/Anxiety Dimension; LSAS-A: Liebowitz Social Anxiety Scale – Avoidance Dimension; BDI: Beck Depression Inventory; RS: Reassurance Seeking Scale; STAI-S: State-Trait Anxiety Inventory - State anxiety dimension; STAI-T: State-Trait Anxiety Inventory - Trait anxiety dimension; COPE_PROBLEM: Ways of Coping Inventory – Problem Focused Coping; COPE_EMOTION: Ways of Coping Inventory – Emotion Focused Coping; COPE_INDIRECT: Ways of Coping Inventory – Indirect Ways of Coping; PA: Positive-Negative Affect Schedule – Positive Affect; NA: Positive-Negative Affect Schedule – Negative Affect; SS: Multidimensional Scale of Perceived Social Support.

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Examination of Independence of NV and N Dimensions of Personality

Existence of the 6th dimension of personality needs to be confirmed by further analysis. Particularly, the independence of NV from N dimension of personality should be addressed. Examination of Table 3 evidently reveals that NV, but not other dimensions of personality, is related to EFC (characterized by avoiding struggling and submissively accepting the situation). Moreover, though N revealed no relationship with IC (characterized by seeking social support), NV had significantly negative correlation with IC. On the basis of these associations, it can be suggested that NV is related to self worth; and N has been known to be related to anxiety related feelings. To verify this explanation several partial correlations were conducted with RSE, STAI-T, EFC, and IC measures.

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1. If NV has been related to self worth, its association with self-esteem score should remain its power after controlling for the N scores. However, just the opposite should be observed for the N dimension, the association between self-esteem and N should decrease significantly after controlling for the NV scores. As expected, the association between NV and self-esteem measure ($r = -.38$) did not significantly differ after controlling for the N scores ($r_{NV.N} = -.29$), $z = 1.52$, $p > .05$. On the other hand, the association between N and self-esteem measure ($r = -.36$) significantly decreased after controlling for the NV scores ($r_{N.NV} = -.24$), $z = 1.98$, $p < .05$.
2. If N has been related to anxiety-related feelings, its association with trait anxiety score should remain its power after controlling for the NV scores. However, just the opposite should be observed for the NV dimension of personality; the association between trait anxiety and NV should decrease significantly after controlling for the N scores. As expected, the association between N and trait anxiety measure ($r = .51$) did not significantly differ after controlling for the NV scores ($r_{N.NV} = .45$), $z = 1.52$, $p > .05$. On the other hand, the association between NV and trait anxiety measure ($r = .29$) significantly decreased after controlling for the N scores ($r_{NV.N} = .12$), $z = 2.67$, $p < .01$.
3. If the relationship between NV and EFC, and negative relationship between NV and IC are due to decreased self-worth, these associations should remain their power, even after controlling for the N dimension of personality. As expected, the association between NV and EFC ($r = .24$) remained almost the same after controlling for the N scores ($r_{NV.N} = .23$), $z = 0.16$, $p > .05$. Similarly, the association between NV and IC ($r = -.16$) remained almost the same and even slightly increased after controlling for the N scores ($r_{NV.N} = -.18$), $z = 0.31$, $p > .05$.

Discussion

The aim of the present study was to test the validity of the FFM in the Turkish culture. For this aim, an indigenous, psychometrically strong instrument measuring the basic personality dimensions within Turkish culture and language was developed through three consecutive studies. Factor structure of this instrument and its psychometric characteristics confirmed that the five-factor nature of personality may not hold true in every culture.

The findings revealed 45 person-descriptive adjectives that accounted for the well-known five basic personality dimensions (i.e., Extraversion, Agreeableness, Conscientiousness, Neuroticism, and Openness to Experience) and the 6th dimension, which was named Negative Valence, in accordance with the relevant suggestions in the literature (e.g., Durrett, & Trull, 2005). The instrument, called

the Basic Personality Traits Inventory (BPTI), was shown to have a strong psychometric structure with the findings of convergent, divergent, and discriminant validity. Moreover, internal reliability, item-total correlation coefficients, and test-retest reliability coefficients also indicated strong psychometric characteristics. These findings were in line with the previous lexical studies in the literature (i.e., Ashton, et al., 2004; Goldberg, 1990; Peabody, & De Raad, 2002), suggesting that the basic personality dimensions described in the trait approach to personality in the literature were also evident in the Turkish culture and language.

Analyses of the validity of the six basic personality dimensions were generally in line with the expectations. Extraversion, which has been defined in terms of positive affectivity (Lucas & Baird, 2004) and positive social interactions (Ashton, Lee, & Paunonen, 2002; Côté & Moskowitz, 1998) was found to be highly correlated with positive affectivity, social support, and low levels of depression. Similarly, Agreeableness, which has also been characterized in terms of high quality in social interactions (Wilkowski, et al., 2006), was found to be positively associated with social support. Moreover, Agreeableness was found to be negatively associated with social anxiety and state-trait anxiety variables, parallel with the suggestions of Wilkowski, et al. (2006) that, prolonged processing of prosocial information lead agreeable individuals to inhibit aggressive and anger related behaviors.

Conscientiousness is one of the basic personality dimensions that signify goal-directed behavior (Costa & Widiger, 2005; George & Zhou, 2001) and acquirement of strategies to cope with frustration coming from objects and tasks (Jensen-Campbell & Rosselli et al., 2002). In parallel with the task-directed nature of the dimension, the concurrent validity analyses revealed a positive association between Conscientiousness and problem-focused coping. Furthermore, problem-focused coping, which is defined as an adaptive strategy by Bouchard (2003), is also found to be positively associated with all other personality dimensions that are associated with high levels of psychological adjustment (i.e., extraversion, agreeableness, and openness to experience) contrary to the dimensions that are negatively related to psychological adjustment (i.e, neuroticism and negative valence).

Neuroticism, as being one of the basic personality dimension that is consistently implied to be associated with proneness to psychological distress (Ben-Ari, & Lavee, 2005; Costa, & Widiger, 2005; Ormel & Wohlfarth, 1991;Weinstock & Whisman, 2006), negative affectivity (Weinstock, & Whisman, 2006), and maladaptive coping strategies (Bouchard, 2003), was found to be associated with many variables related to psychological adjustment in the expected directions (i.e., low levels of self-esteem and positive affect; and high levels of depression, social anxiety, state and trait anxiety, emotion focused coping, reassurance seeking, and negative affect). Considering negative contribution of Neuroticism to the quality of social interactions, the finding that neuroticism is negatively associated with the global social support score is also in line with the literature.

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Openness to Experience, which reflects the flexible part of the personality structure (Costa & Widiger, 2005), was found to be positively associated with self-esteem and positive affect. Although the concept is subject to several criticisms in the literature and its lexical universality is still debatable (De Raad, 1998 as cited in Carrillo, Rojo, Bernardos-Sánchez & Avia, 2001), Openness to Experience is implied to be contributing to psychological well being, especially in terms of engaging in problem focused coping strategies (Bouchard, 2003), which has also been supported with the findings of the present study.

Though relatively a new dimension, findings related to Negative Valence also indicate its negative contribution to psychological well-being (Durrett & Trull, 2005). In parallel with this suggestion, the findings of the present study revealed similar results for Negative Valence with that of neuroticism, indicating that negative valence is also associated with the variables that inhibit psychological well being.

At this point, it is important to support the independent nature of Neuroticism (N) and Negative Valence (NV) dimensions of personality. For this aim, besides zero-order correlations, several partial correlation analyses were conducted for N and NV dimensions, and the significant changes between these two correlation coefficients were examined. Analyses with self-esteem and trait anxiety measures revealed that, though the association between N and trait anxiety held its power after controlling for NV scores; the association between NV and trait anxiety significant decreased after controlling for the N scores. On the other hand just the opposite was observed for the self-esteem scores. Though the association between NV and self-esteem held its power after controlling for N scores; the association between N and self-esteem significant decreased after controlling for the NV scores. These findings propose that N is more closely and independently related to distress and anxiety, while NV is more closely and independently related to self worth.

The independent nature of N and NV could be observed in terms of coping strategies as well. Results revealed that N was neither related to Emotion Focused Coping (EFC) nor Indirect Coping (IC), ($rs = .08$ & $.01$, respectively), but it was highly related to Problem Focused Coping (PFC), ($r = -.43$). As expected, distressed, anxious, and moody people (i.e., people with high N scores) lacked coping strategies that directly focus on solving the problematic situation. Though the correlation coefficient is weaker, in terms of PFC a similar pattern was also observed for people who had high NV scores. However, for other domains of coping, namely EFC and IC, though N revealed almost no association, there was a moderate association between NV and these two coping domains ($rs = .24$ & $-.16$, for EFC and IC respectively). EFC has been characterized by the tendency to accept the situation as it is or trying to avoid the problematic situation without actively dealing with it. Consistently, Gençöz, Gençöz, and Bozo (2006) found that coping strategies related to distancing/avoidance and religious coping were clustered under the EFC dimension, and this coping style was found to be closely related to submissive acts. In the present study, though NV revealed moderate

correlation with the EFC, this correlation was not significant for N ($r = .08$). That is, people reporting high NV tend to adopt EFC strategies; while this coping strategy is unrelated with N dimension of personality. Thus, it can be asserted that people with high NV lack the courage and self-worth to struggle with the problematic situation, and they rather passively accept the situation as it is or try to avoid the problematic situation.

IC strategies, on the other hand, refer to seeking social support to cope with the problem situation. People with high NV tended not to use this kind of coping strategy ($r = -.16$), while it was unrelated to N dimension of personality. Thus, consistent with the suggestions given above, those people with high NV may think that they are not worthy enough to receive support/help from others, thus they prefer not to seek social support from others. To support this suggestion, after controlling for the N dimension of personality, the relationship between NV and IC remained almost the same and even slightly increased from $-.16$ to $-.18$. It is important to note that the correlation between IC and N dimension of personality was almost 0 (i.e., .01).

Though following the five-factor theory of personality, 5-factor nature of personality has been supported in various studies, and the samples from different cultures are still lacking. Consistent with the findings of the present study, Ashton and his colleagues (2004) claimed that the six-factor solution, that more or less deviate from the FFM conceptualizations, is replicable in psycholexical studies conducted in various cultures including Dutch, French, German, Hungarian, Italian, Korean and Polish samples. Nevertheless, more studies are required to further support this position.

Presence of the NV dimension of personality in a Turkish sample can be explained by its cultural characteristics as well. For the Turkish culture, general preference and politeness is an expression of positive qualities by others, while awareness about and expression of negative qualities by oneself is very important. Thus, people in Turkey do not often welcome expressions of personal pride; rather, they reinforce group pride or positive appraisals from others. It may be partly due to Turkey being an honor culture (İmamoğlu, 1991; Öner-Özkan & Gençöz, 2006). Thus, based on this cultural structure, positive qualities should be appreciated by others, whereas people should decently accept and be able to express their failures and shortcomings when necessary. Thus, being a self-report measure, BPTI developed in the present study reflected negative features of people as a separate and independent dimension. Therefore, taking into account the cultural structure of Turkey and the indigenous self-development models, it could be concluded that, studying trait descriptive adjectives in Turkish language would provide a different outlook to our general understanding of personality dimensions.

Moreover, currently, both collectivist and individualistic values are favored in Turkey (Imamoğlu, 1998, 2003; Kağıtçıbaşı, 1983). Thus, people are mostly appreciated when they act in a manner that would promote both personal and

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societal welfare. In line with this argument, Alfred Adler (Cloninger, 2004) names healthy and useful lifestyle as the socially useful type. People with this lifestyle seek the benefit of society through altruistic and creative ways but not through the cost of personal sacrifice. Thus for Adler, healthy people have strong social interest, but it is not a matter of sacrificing self for others. To be able to combine society's benefit with one's own benefit, acknowledgement of one's positive and negative features—that is, strengths and weaknesses—is very crucial. Carl Gustav Jung (Cloninger, 2004) calls this realization the development of self-archetype, where various aspects of personality are integrated. To achieve this position, being an indivisible whole and having a self-view with its positive and negative features are very important factors. Hence, these basic personality theories also underline the importance of acknowledgement of one's negative and/or inferior features.

Other than cultural varieties, one of the important strengths of the present study was the method of selecting the traits while generating the initial list of personality traits. The method that the traditional trait theorists followed was the use of dictionary, and making some elimination on them. However, a more objective method might be to ask people how they perceive different people with different characteristics. Via this method, the adjectives would be the ones that have been frequently used in everyday language, and they would emphasize possible cultural differences. Ekman and his colleagues (Ekman & Friesen, 1969; Ekman, P. & Friesen, & Ellsworth, 1982) argue that we have six basic emotions that are biologically universal to all human beings. Thus, in our very first study we asked participants initially to identify people arousing each of these basic emotions, and then to report adjectives reflecting the characteristics of those people. Through this method it was assured that people reported characteristics of different people rather than few people with certain narrow characteristics. This method addressed cultural differences more strongly than selecting adjectives from dictionaries since it controls for the frequency of usage of these traits in everyday language; moreover wide characteristics of people arousing biologically universal basic emotions were covered.

Overall, analyses of convergent, divergent, and discriminant validity provided further support for the psychometric strength of the BPTI with its 6 dimensions. Furthermore, significant associations between six personality dimensions and psychological well-being measures addressed the importance of understanding the roles of personality dimensions on psychological disorders. Besides, being a culturally derived and relatively short instrument, BPTI is also suggested to be useful not only for research but also for clinical purposes. Based on the findings of the study, further studies conducted in different cultures challenging the five-factor nature of personality are strongly encouraged.

AUTHOR NOTES

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