A Spanish reduced version of the Oxford-Liverpool Inventory of Feelings and Experiences (O-LIFE)

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The present study reports the development of a Spanish shortened version of the Oxford-Liverpool Inventory of Feelings and Experiences (O-LIFE; Mason, Claridge and Jackson, 1995). These scales were devised to reliably measure the four schizotypal dimensions in normal populations.

Previous studies were conducted to see if the Spanish version properly reproduced the factorial structure and the psychometric properties described by the original authors. It was found that the scale highly resembled the norms and psychometrics provided by the English version (Gutiérrez, Aguilar, Jarne, & Aguilar, 1997; Aguilar, Gutiérrez, & Aguilar, 1997).

The aim of this research was to replicate the four-factor structure of the O-LIFE with a considerable reduced number of items. From four different factor analyses performed we chose a 32-item version that seemed to appropriately reproduce the factor structure and to have acceptable psychometric properties.

The Oxford-Liverpool Inventory of Feelings and Experiences' main characteristics:

•It's a self-administered questionnaire .

•Contains four different scales that, although correlating moderately, tap separately four different schizotypal dimensions that intended to cover each aspect of the schizotypy construct

•The four scales were labelled as: Unusual Experiences, Cognitive Disorganisation, Introvertive Anhedonia and Impulsive Nonconformity.

•The total number of items in the complete form of the O-LIFE is 159 items, given that also the STA, Extraversion and Lie scales are included.

• The Claridge and Broks' STA (1984) was retained as a comparative measure of schizotypy, whereas the Eysenckian scales served as filler items and were intended to soften the otherwise 'pathological' content of the scale. The Lie scale served also as an indicator of dissimulation. The whole questionnaire then includes seven scores, the four schizotypy scales and the three scales just described.

Our goal:

•To examine whether the four-factor structure of the scale with similar psychometric properties, may be retained with a smaller number of items.

•To develop a shorter version of the O-LIFE to be a useful tool for research purposes, taking into account that schizotypy is measured on many occasions together with other personality variables.

Our sample

560 students from various faculties of the University of Barcelona and the Autonomous University of Barcelona.

Ages ranging from 18 to 46. There was a majority of women (69%) and most of them were aged 18.

Statistical Analyses

Criterion for the selection of items: those with the highest loadings in the factors' original scale.

Three factor analyses were performed. Four principal components in each analysis were extracted and rotated by means of the varimax method.

Summary of the factor analysis

Item / Factor	Unusual Experiences	Cognitive Disorganisation	Introvertive Anhedonia	Impulsive Nonconformity	Communality
31	**.60**	.01	-.11	.12	.39
25	**.60**	-.01	.06	.05	.37
7	**.58**	.10	-.03	-.03	.35
15	**.58**	.18	.00	.06	.37
23	**.56**	.08	-.03	.10	.33
20	**.55**	.04	-.06	.00	.31
40	**.53**	.12	.13	.11	.33
9	**.50**	-.04	.02	-.13	.27
35	**.50**	.13	-.09	.04	.28
14	**.48**	.09	.09	-.12	.26
28	.13	**.67**	-.03	-.01	.47
13	-.04	**.61**	-.06	.06	.38
36	.02	**.60**	-.07	.06	.36
10	-.02	**.59**	.04	.00	.35
6	.20	**.57**	.07	-.01	.37
26	.12	**.51**	.01	.05	.28
17	.21	**.47**	-.04	.15	.29
1	.01	**.47**	-.18	-.02	.25
18	.19	**.46**	.02	.01	.25
19	-.02	**.43**	-.15	-.16	.23
21	-.07	-.04	**.72**	.12	.54
38	-.02	-.04	**.68**	.13	.49
22	.03	-.08	**.65**	-.10	.44
33	-.11	-.19	**.55**	.05	.35
32	.09	.05	**.53**	-.01	.29
39	.00	-.01	**.50**	-.03	.25
16	.01	.01	-.02	**.66**	.44
29	.00	-.08	-.00	**.65**	.43
4	-.00	-.05	.10	**.54**	.31
34	-.11	.05	.04	**.54**	.31
5	.34	.02	-.02	**.46**	.33
37	.12	.19	-.00	**.45**	.26
Eigen.	4.29563	2.70359	2.18537	1.93103	
% var.	13.4	8.4	6.8	6	
Ac. var.	13.4	21.9	28.7	34.7	
Alpha	.76	.74	.67	.59	Total: .72

Main Results:

•As could be expected, taking into account that we selected the items with the highest loadings on each factor, a higher percentage of variance is explained by the four factors in the reduced version of the O-LIFE than in the extended English (Mason et al., 1995) and Spanish (Gutiérrez et al., 1997) versions (24.7% and 22.3% respectively).

•Not all scales have high internal consistency as assessed by coefficient alpha, although they are not worse than the indices found for the complete scales in a previous study of the Spanish version of the O-LIFE (Aguilar, Gutiérrez & Aguilar, 1997). The alpha coefficient of the whole instrument is adequate. Levels of skewness and kurtoses are within ± 1 limits, except for the IntAn scale. The distribution of this latter scale in our sample shows higher frequencies of low scores. However, the same pattern was found for the complete Spanish scales and a similar one was reported in the study of Mason, Claridge and Jackson (1995), in which the Int An scale had the highest skewness index (0.99).

•The relatively high number of items coming from the EPQ's Extraversion (E) and Neuroticism (N) scales retained in this reduced version of the O-LIFE suggests that these basic dimensions of personality play an important role in the configuration of the scale in our student sample. In particular, they are relevant components of the Introvertive Anhedonia and Cognitive Disorganisation scales. There is also a considerable number of items coming from the Lie (L) scale in the Impulsive Nonconformity scale. In this respect, it seems reasonable to think that subjects scoring high on the Impulsive Nonconformity scale are less inclined to give a socially acceptable image of themselves. This may explain the substantial number of L items comprising the ImpNon scale. As Michaelis and Eysenck (1971) found, scores in scales like L can be interpreted under some conditions as measures of personality traits themselves.

•As might be expected, lower correlations among the scales were found in this study compared with Mason et al.'s (1995) due to the deliberate selection of items with the highest factor loadings.

It can be concluded that the four-factor structure of the O-LIFE, with similar psychometric properties, can be properly retained with a smaller number of items. The reduced version of the O-LIFE may be seen as a specially interesting device of screening in research context, in which schizotypy is usually measured alongside other measures of personality. In such situations, administering a wide range of items inevitably bears the risk of fatiguing subjects and therefore of decreasing reliability in their answers. Further evidence of the usefulness of the reduced version is obviously required, for example by observing its ability to replicate previously robust findings of an association with some cognitive and psychophysiological variables.