

## **The cross-cultural comparison of self-assessment of intelligence**

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This collaborative Russian-German study was aimed at the examination of cultural specificity of self-assessment of intelligence. We suggested that three culture-specific characteristics of intelligent actions described in questionnaire items could influence psychometric properties of intelligence questionnaire. They are (1) frequency of practice, (2) value as a motivational appeal, (3) prototypicality with respect to the construct of intelligence. These dimensions constitute the theoretical model of relevance of self-assessment measure of intelligence to culture. The empirical study consisted of three stages. On the first stage intelligence questionnaire has been developed on the basis of Act Frequency Approach (Buss, Craik, 1983). On the second stage the German and Russian participants (N(Germany)=371, mean age 16.14; N(Russia)=188, mean age 15.95) estimated cultural specificity of questionnaire's items, i. e. their frequency, value and prototypicality. On the third stage traditional IQ tests were applied in order to reveal questionnaire's psychometric properties and to test the main hypotheses about the mediation of psychometric properties of intelligence questionnaire by 3 dimensions of cultural specificity of its items (N(Germany)=504, mean age 15.95; N(Russia)=460, mean age 15.87). Russian and German self-estimates of intelligence obtained from the items which had similar specificity estimates in two cultures intercorrelated significantly higher than those obtained from the remote items. This proves that items' relevance to a culture mediates self-assessment of intelligence. Furthermore, the external validity of the questionnaire was positively related to prototypicality, and negatively related to value. The level of self-estimates of intelligence was predicted by value and frequency. These two findings were revealed in both samples. To improve questionnaire external validity, the procedures of correction of scores which take items' relevance to a culture into account were developed.