ADAPTATION OF THE HUMOR STYLE QUESTIONNAIRE (HSQ) SCALE IN THE INDONESIAN LANGUAGE VERSION

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Abstract

This study aims to adapt the Humor Style Questionnaire (HSQ) into Indonesian and evaluate its psychometric properties for use in Indonesia. The adaptation process followed standardized guidelines, including construct review, forward–backward translation, expert judgment, readability testing, and empirical examination. Eight experts evaluated the content validity using Aiken's V, resulting in coefficients ranging from 0.833 to 1.00, indicating high content validity for all 32 items. Test–retest reliability was assessed over a two-week interval and produced a correlation coefficient of r = 0.999, demonstrating excellent score stability. Item discrimination analysis showed that 29 items met the criteria for high discriminatory power, while three items required revision. These results indicate that the Indonesian version of the HSQ is a valid and reliable instrument for assessing humor styles within the Indonesian cultural context. The adapted HSQ provides a robust foundation for future research and practical applications in psychology.
Keywords: *Adaptation, Validity, Reliability.*

Abstrak

Penelitian ini bertujuan untuk mengadaptasi Humor Style Questionnaire (HSQ) ke dalam Bahasa Indonesia serta menguji validitas dan reliabilitasnya. Proses adaptasi mengikuti tahapan standar, meliputi telaah konstruk, penerjemahan forward–backward, penilaian ahli, uji keterbacaan, dan pengujian empiris. Validitas isi dinilai oleh delapan ahli menggunakan Aiken's V dengan nilai berkisar antara 0,833 hingga 1,00, yang menunjukkan bahwa seluruh item memiliki validitas isi yang tinggi. Reliabilitas uji-ulang dengan interval dua minggu menghasilkan koefisien r = 0,999 yang menandakan konsistensi skor yang sangat tinggi. Analisis daya beda menunjukkan 29 item memiliki daya pembeda tinggi, sementara tiga item memerlukan revisi. Hasil ini menunjukkan bahwa HSQ versi Bahasa Indonesia merupakan instrumen yang valid dan reliabel untuk mengukur gaya humor dalam konteks budaya Indonesia. Adaptasi ini memberikan kontribusi penting bagi penelitian dan praktik psikologi terkait humor.
Kata Kunci: Adaptasi, Validitas, Reliabilitas.

INTRODUCTION

Humor plays an essential role in human social interaction, emotional regulation, and psychological well-being. As an individual difference variable, humor style reflects how people express and use humor in daily life. Martin et al. (2003) developed the Humor Style Questionnaire (HSQ) to assess four distinct humor styles—affiliative, self-enhancing, aggressive, and self-defeating. Since its development, HSQ has been widely applied across cultures and has consistently demonstrated strong psychometric properties. Recent studies highlight the importance of examining humor in relation to mental health, interpersonal functioning, and cultural norms, showing that humor styles can influence coping strategies, social connectedness, and psychological vulnerability.

In collectivistic societies such as Indonesia, humor plays an important role in maintaining social harmony, reducing tension, and fostering group cohesion. Research by Saragih (2015) and Hofstede (2001) indicates that Indonesian humor is shaped by cultural values such as politeness and communal orientation, which may differ from Western contexts

where HSQ was originally developed. Although humor is integral to Indonesian social life, no standardized and psychometrically validated Indonesian adaptation of HSQ currently exists. Previous international studies—such as those conducted in China, Canada, Singapore, Egypt, and Lebanon—show that humor styles vary substantially across cultures, reinforcing the necessity for culturally appropriate adaptations of humor assessment tools.

This absence of an Indonesian HSQ represents a significant research gap. Without a culturally adapted and validated instrument, studies examining humor in Indonesia lack methodological rigor and comparability with international findings. Additionally, no prior research in Indonesia has evaluated HSQ through content validity indices, item discrimination, or test–retest reliability. These gaps hinder the advancement of humor-related psychological research within the Indonesian context.

To address this gap, the present study adapts HSQ into Bahasa Indonesia following established cross-cultural test adaptation guidelines. The adaptation process includes construct evaluation by experts, forward–backward translation, expert judgment using Aiken's V, readability testing, and empirical psychometric evaluation. This approach ensures that the Indonesian version maintains the conceptual equivalence, linguistic clarity, and cultural relevance required for accurate assessment.

The purpose of this research is to produce an Indonesian HSQ that is valid, reliable, and culturally appropriate for measuring humor styles among Indonesian populations. Establishing such an instrument will support future research on humor, mental health, and social behavior in Indonesia, while also facilitating cross-cultural comparisons in humor studies.

METHOD

This study employed a quantitative approach to adapt the Humor Style Questionnaire (HSQ) into Indonesian and examine its psychometric properties through a series of systematic procedures. Eight expert raters in psychology and psychometrics evaluated content validity, while 88 undergraduate psychology students participated in the empirical testing consisting of two administrations conducted two weeks apart. The adaptation process included construct review, forward translation by two translators, backward translation by an independent bilingual expert, expert judgment using Aiken's V, and readability testing with three students. After revisions, the finalized Indonesian HSQ was administered to the student sample to assess item quality and score stability. Content validity was analyzed using Aiken's V, item discrimination was evaluated through item–total correlation, and test–retest reliability was assessed using Pearson's correlation coefficient. All analyses were performed using JASP 0.18.1 to ensure replicable and transparent statistical procedures.

RESULT AND DISCUSSION
Result
Based on the result of data analysis, the findings related to validity content

Table 1.
Content Validity Test Results

Dimensions/Aspects	Item	Validity	Criterion
Affiliative Humor	1	0.917	valid
	5	0.875	valid
	9	0.875	valid
	13	1.000	valid
	17	1.000	valid
	21	0.958	valid
	25	0.917	valid
	29		valid

Self-Enhancing Humor	2	0.917	valid
	6	0.958	valid
	10	0.833	valid
	14	0.958	valid
	18	0.917	valid
	22	0.958	valid
	26	0.917	valid
	30	0.958	valid
Aggressive Humor	3	0.917	valid
	7	0.875	valid
	11	0.917	valid
	15	1.000	valid
	19	0.833	valid
	23	0.833	valid
	27	1.000	valid
	31	0.917	valid
Self-Defeating Humor	4	0.958	valid
	8	0.917	valid
	12	0.958	valid
	16	1.000	valid
	20	0.958	valid
	24	0.875	valid
	28	0.917	valid
	32	0.917	valid

Result The acceptable error level was determined based on the Aiken's V index table, with a minimum acceptable V value of 0.83. Based on the assessment of the Humor Style Questionnaire (HSQ) conducted by eight experts, the table above indicates that all evaluated items obtained good validity values.

Tabel 2.
Test-retest reliability test results

Skor Total	r	p
Test 1 – Test 2	0,999	< ,001

In this study, the test-retest reliability was examined using the Pearson Correlation Test analyzed with JASP by correlating the first and second tests. The decision criteria are as follows: 1) if the significance value < 0.05, the tests are considered correlated, 2) if the significance value > 0.05, the tests are considered not correlated (Jabnabillah F. Margina N., 2022).

Table 3.
Results of the item discrimination test

Item	p	Criterion
1	0.995	High
5	0.995	High
9	0.885	High
13	0.675	High
17	0.990	High
21	0.992	High
25	0.932	High
29	0.973	High
2	0.780	High
6	0.780	High
10	0.233	Low
14	0.952	High
18	0.932	High
22	0.791	High
26	0.915	High

30	0.998	High
3	0.932	High
7	0.932	High
11	1.000	High
15	0.951	High
19	0.905	High
23	0.983	High
27	0.235	Low
31	0.928	High
4	0.997	High
8	0.997	High
12	0.973	High
16	0.429	High
20	0.998	High
24	0.715	High
28	0.939	High
32	0.220	Low

The trial results showed that the items with high item discrimination were items 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 28, 29, 30, and 31, while the items with low item discrimination were items 10, 27, and 32. See Table 3

Discussion

The results of this study indicate that the Indonesian adaptation of the Humor Style Questionnaire (HSQ) demonstrates excellent content validity, with all items obtaining Aiken's V values ranging from 0.75 to 1.00. This confirms that every item is judged by experts as relevant and representative of the four humor style dimensions proposed by Martin et al. (2003). These findings align with Hambleton's (2005) guidelines for cross-cultural test adaptation, which emphasize the need for conceptual equivalence between the original and adapted instruments. Moreover, the high validity scores suggest that the constructs of affiliative, self-enhancing, aggressive, and self-defeating humor remain meaningful within the Indonesian cultural context, which is often characterized as collectivistic—consistent with the cultural observations noted by Saragih (2015).

In terms of reliability, the Indonesian HSQ demonstrates extremely strong temporal consistency, with a test–retest correlation of $r = 0.999$ ($p < 0.001$). This value far exceeds the recommended minimum reliability standards proposed by Nunnally and Bernstein (1994), suggesting that humor styles function as relatively stable personality characteristics, consistent with the original findings of Martin et al. (2003). This high reliability parallels results from cross-cultural studies such as those by Chen & Martin (2007) and Kalliny et al. (2006), both of which also reported strong reliability indices for the HSQ in different cultural populations. Therefore, the present study reinforces the psychometric stability of the HSQ even after linguistic and cultural adaptation into Indonesian.

The item discrimination analysis shows that 29 items possess strong discriminative power (>0.30), while three items (items 10, 27, and 32) fall below the acceptable threshold. This indicates that most items effectively differentiate individuals with varying humor style tendencies, although a few items may require revision due to cultural differences in interpreting humor. Similar patterns have been reported in cross-cultural humor research (Nevo et al., 2001; Jiang et al., 2011), which suggests that humor perception and expression are highly sensitive to cultural norms. Overall, this study provides a valuable contribution by establishing a valid and reliable Indonesian version of the HSQ and lays an important foundation for future psychological assessment and humor-related research in Indonesia.

CONCLUSION

Based on the research that has been conducted and the observed validity and reliability, it can be concluded that the Humor Style Questionnaire (HSQ), which consists of 4 dimensions and 32 items, is appropriate for use. Based on the existing validity results as indicated by the Aiken's V values, the Indonesian version of the HSQ can be considered valid for use in Indonesia, showing that this measurement tool is suitable for application in the Indonesian context. In addition, the results of the offline test–retest reliability analysis indicate that this instrument is reliable for use in Indonesia.

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