



Psychometric properties and structural validation of Childhood Trauma Questionnaire with Witnessed Family Violence: a revised Italian version

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Introduction

Early definitions of child maltreatment do not include the form of witnessed family violence, although literature stressed the strong co-occurrence of child maltreatment and domestic violence (Appel & Holden, 1998; Edleson, 1999; Hamby, Finkelhor, Turner, & Ormrod, 2010). Studies showed evidence that children who live in homes where domestic violence occurs are more likely to be abused and neglected (i.e. Osofsky, 2003). However, although the theoretical and empirical assumptions suggest the need to integrate witnessed family violence within the child maltreatment construct, the assessment and the measurement of these forms tend to be separated. The majority of the instruments measuring child maltreatment does not include witnessed family violence in the construct definition.

Aims

To analyze the psychometric properties of the revised version of CTQ-SF scale where the dimension of witnessed family violence has been included as a dimension of child maltreatment. A second order structure has been tested where the child maltreatment latent construct is defined by the six first order dimensions of child maltreatment: witnessed family violence, emotional neglect, emotional abuse, physical neglect, physical abuse, sexual abuse.

Materials and Method

-Participants and procedure

The sample consisted of 358 students (88,3% females) from the University of Florence with age ranging from 18 to 47 years (M=20,14; SD=3,59). Students participated in the research during the first semester of University lessons. The questionnaire was administered between October and December 2019, via the google form platform. The questionnaire was anonymous, respecting the processing of personal data and included an informed consent form.

-Measures

Childhood Trauma Questionnaire (CTQ-SF) with Witnessed Family Violence: a revised Italian version. The scale is composed of 33 items and six dimensions: witnessed family violence (α .79), emotional neglect (α .92), emotional abuse (α .87), physical neglect (α .49), physical abuse (α .62); sexual abuse (α .90).

Overview of the Analyses

Confirmatory factor analysis

All the analyses were conducted via Mplus 7.0 (Muthén & Muthén, 1998-2010). Referring to the categorical nature of the data, the estimator used in the Confirmatory Factor Analyses was a mean and variance-adjusted least-squares estimator WLSMV (weighted least squared mean variance). The model was evaluated by means of the following overall indices: the chi-square test χ^2 (statistic), the root-mean square error of approximation (RMSEA= cutoff is .08 or .06), the comparative fit index (CFI= cutoff is .90 or .95), and finally the weighted root mean square residual (WRMR= the cutoff of 1.0 has moderate to strong power to detect misspecified models with acceptable)

Results

Figure 1. Factor loadings of the CTQ second order model

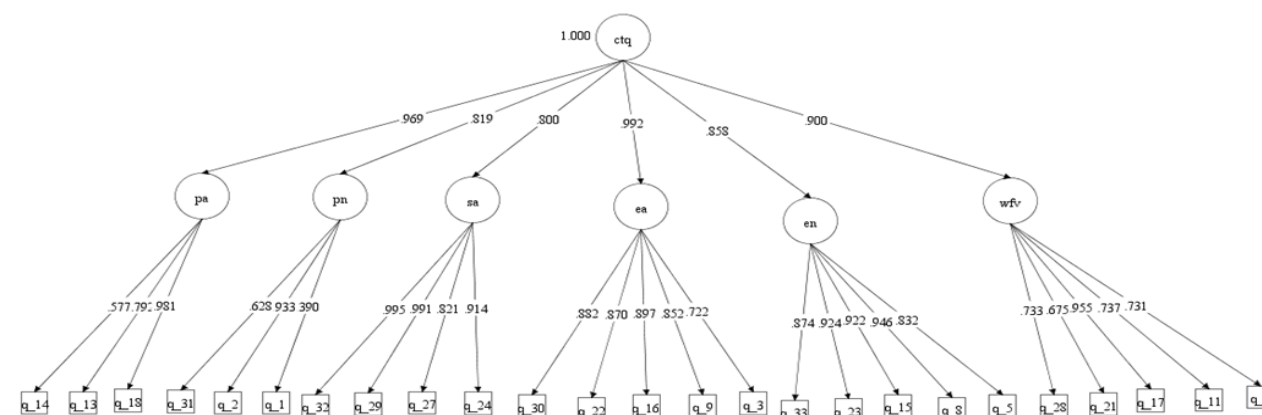


Table 2- Fit Indices of Confirmatory Factor Analysis

Model	χ^2	GI	P	RMSEA [90%CI]	CFI	WRMR	N
	638.609	269	.0000	.062[.056;.068]	.972	1.282	358

Note: Second-Order Model: second order model (CTQ), 25 items, 6 first order factors (witnessed home violence: 6,11,17,21,28; emotional neglect: 5,8,15,23,33; emotional abuse: 3,9,16,22,30; sexual abuse: 24,27,29,30; physical abuse: 13,14,18; physical neglect: 1,2,31).

References

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Hamby, S., Finkelhor, D., Turner, H., & Ormrod, R. (2010). The overlap of witnessing partner violence with child maltreatment and other victimizations in a nationally representative survey of youth. *Child abuse & neglect*, 34(10), 734-741.

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Conclusions

The study confirms the definition of child maltreatment construct as measured by witnessed family violence together with the original dimensions of CTQ (emotional neglect, emotional abuse, sexual abuse, physical abuse and physical neglect).

