

## Dutch translation of the Self-Liking/Self-Competence Scale – Revised: A confirmatory factor analysis of the two-factor structure

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### Abstract

In the present study, the Self-Liking/Self-Competence Scale – Revised (Tafarodi & Swann, 2001) was translated into Dutch and psychometric properties of the questionnaire were assessed. According to Tafarodi and Swann (2001), self-esteem is composed of two dimensions, and the questionnaire was constructed specifically to tap these two dimensions of self-esteem, namely self-competence and self-liking. Based on a confirmatory factor analysis (CFA), results confirmed that a two-dimensional model with the factors self-competence and self-liking provided a superior fit to the data as compared to a unidimensional model of self-esteem. Reliability and validity of the questionnaire were appropriate.

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## 1. Introduction

For more than four decades, the concept of self-esteem has taken a central place in social psychology research. Nevertheless, there has been a great deal of controversy concerning the definition of this concept: Over a hundred different definitions of self-esteem have been proposed (Mruk, 1999). Generally, self-esteem refers to an individual's overall evaluation of the self (Gecas, 1982). Initially, self-esteem was conceived as an indivisible concept and within that framework the Rosenberg Self-Esteem Scale (RSES; Rosenberg, 1965) was developed. This ten-item questionnaire is considered a measure of an individual's global perception of his or her self-worth, and endorses the view of self-esteem being a unidimensional construct.

However, self-esteem's unidimensionality has been debated from the beginning. Convincing evidence for a dualistic approach of self-esteem was found by Tafarodi and his colleagues (Tafarodi & Milne, 2002; Tafarodi & Swann, 1995, 2001). Investigating the underlying factor structure of the RSES, Tafarodi and Swann (1995) demonstrated that a two-factor model provided a superior fit compared to a one-factor global self-esteem model. According to their model, self-esteem is comprised of the dimensions *self-competence* and *self-liking*.

Self-competence (SC) refers to the generalized sense of one's own efficacy or power. Generally, self-competence is considered to depend on the correspondence of goals or intentions with the outcomes of actions aimed at realizing those goals or intentions. The competence dimension of the Self-Liking/Self-Competence Scale reflects the degree to which people see themselves as capable and efficacious (efficacy-based self-esteem). Conversely, Self-liking (SL) refers to the generalized sense of one's own worth as a social object and it is considered to depend more on internalized positive regards from others. The liking dimension of the SLCS-R is a reflection of the degree to which individuals feel they are persons of value (worth-based self-esteem).

Based on their findings, Tafarodi and Swann (1995) developed a questionnaire specifically designed to measure both dimensions of self-esteem, namely the Self-Liking/Self-Competence Scale (SLCS). The authors suggested that the self-competence and self-liking dimension should be considered as two correlated but distinct factors of global self-esteem (Tafarodi & Swann, 2001). Based on a confirmatory factor analysis (CFA), the questionnaire was revised and reduced to a sixteen-item questionnaire, consisting of eight items for each of the two subscales (SLCS-Revised; Tafarodi & Swann, 2001).

Several studies demonstrated that discerning self-liking from self-competence can be valuable. For example, Bardone, Perez, Abramson, and Joiner (2003) conducted a study in which students completed the RSES and the Eating Disorder Inventory (EDI; Garner, Olmstead, & Polivy, 1983) on two separate occasions. They demonstrated that self-competence related items of the RSES significantly predicted the amount of change in bulimic symptoms over time whereas this was not the case for the self-liking related items. Similarly, Sassaroli and Ruggiero (2005) studied the association between self-esteem (as measured by the SLCS) and eating disorder symptoms (as measured by the EDI). Results indicated that in a stressful situation both self-liking and self-competence predicted 'Drive for thinness', but that only self-liking was associated with the amount of 'Body dissatisfaction'. Finally, Tafarodi and Vu (1997) presented their participants two sets of 20 anagrams, of which 10 were unsolvable. After receiving failure feedback, participants who had low self-liking – but not those who had low self-competence – persisted less in solving the puzzles.

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