

# The Five Factor Model of personality applied to adults who stutter

Lisa Iverach<sup>a</sup>, Susan O'Brian<sup>a</sup>, Mark Jones<sup>b</sup>, Susan Block<sup>c</sup>, Michelle Lincoln<sup>a</sup>,  
Elisabeth Harrison<sup>d</sup>, Sally Hewat<sup>e</sup>, Ross G. Menzies<sup>a</sup>, Ann Packman<sup>a</sup>, Mark Onslow<sup>a,\*</sup>

<sup>a</sup> Australian Stuttering Research Centre, The University of Sydney, PO Box 170, Lidcombe, NSW 1825, Australia

<sup>b</sup> School of Population Health, University of Queensland, Level 2, Public Health Building, Herston Road, Herston, QLD 4006, Australia

<sup>c</sup> School of Human Communication Sciences, La Trobe University, VIC 3086, Australia

<sup>d</sup> Department of Linguistics, Macquarie University, North Ryde, NSW 2109, Australia

<sup>e</sup> School of Humanities and Social Science, The University of Newcastle, Callaghan Campus, NSW 2308, Australia

Received 18 June 2009; received in revised form 9 November 2009; accepted 10 December 2009

---

## Abstract

Previous research has not explored the Five Factor Model of personality among adults who stutter. Therefore, the present study investigated the five personality domains of Neuroticism, Extraversion, Openness, Agreeableness and Conscientiousness, as measured by the NEO Five Factor Inventory (NEO-FFI), in a sample of 93 adults seeking speech treatment for stuttering, and compared these scores with normative data from an Australian and a United States sample. Results revealed that NEO-FFI scores for the stuttering group were within the 'average' range for all five personality domains. However, adults who stutter were characterized by significantly higher Neuroticism, and significantly lower Agreeableness and Conscientiousness, than normative samples. No significant differences were found between groups on the dimensions of Extraversion and Openness. These results are discussed with reference to the relationship between personality factors among adults who stutter, their directionality, and implications for predicting treatment outcome.

**Learning outcomes:** The reader will be able to: (1) describe the Five Factor Model of personality, including the NEO-FFI personality domains of Extraversion, Neuroticism, Openness, Agreeableness, and Conscientiousness, and (2) discuss differences in NEO-FFI domain scores between adults who stutter and normative samples, and (3) understand the clinical implications of personality profiles in terms of treatment process and outcome for adults who stutter.

© 2009 Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved.

---

## 1. Introduction

Personality structure refers to “enduring emotional, interpersonal, experiential, attitudinal, and motivational styles” (McCrae, 1991, p. 399) which are fundamental to all individuals. Although personality is not considered to be a causal factor in the development of stuttering (Bloodstein & Bernstein Ratner, 2008; Sermas & Cox, 1982), it has been suggested

---

\* Corresponding author at: Faculty of Health Sciences, The University of Sydney, PO Box 170, Lidcombe, NSW 1825, Australia.  
Tel.: +61 2 9351 9061; fax: +61 2 9351 9054.

E-mail addresses: [l.iverach@usyd.edu.au](mailto:l.iverach@usyd.edu.au) (L. Iverach), [s.obrian@usyd.edu.au](mailto:s.obrian@usyd.edu.au) (S. O'Brian), [m.jones@sph.uq.edu.au](mailto:m.jones@sph.uq.edu.au) (M. Jones), [S.Block@latrobe.edu.au](mailto:S.Block@latrobe.edu.au) (S. Block), [m.lincoln@usyd.edu.au](mailto:m.lincoln@usyd.edu.au) (M. Lincoln), [Elisabeth.Harrison@ling.mq.edu.au](mailto:Elisabeth.Harrison@ling.mq.edu.au) (E. Harrison), [Sally.Hewat@newcastle.edu.au](mailto:Sally.Hewat@newcastle.edu.au) (S. Hewat), [r.menzies@usyd.edu.au](mailto:r.menzies@usyd.edu.au) (R.G. Menzies), [a.packman@usyd.edu.au](mailto:a.packman@usyd.edu.au) (A. Packman), [m.onslow@usyd.edu.au](mailto:m.onslow@usyd.edu.au) (M. Onslow).

that the negative consequences of the disorder may have an adverse impact upon personality adjustment (Prins, 1972), quality of life, occupational success and overall functioning (Ruben, 2000; Yaruss, 2001). Consequently, the personality structure of adults who stutter has been widely explored and debated (Sermas & Cox, 1982; Van Riper, 1982).

Past research has largely compared the personality profiles of adults who stutter with adults who do not stutter and psychiatric samples (Bloodstein & Bernstein Ratner, 2008; Goodstein, 1958; Prins, 1972), and this focus has generated substantial controversy (Seery, Watkins, Mangelsdorf, & Shigeto, 2007). On the whole, research findings have not consistently or conclusively reported the presence of distinct personality traits in those who stutter or the presence of significant personality differences between stuttering and fluent populations (Andrews et al., 1983; Sermas & Cox, 1982; Treon, Dempster, & Blaesing, 2006). For instance, a number of studies have reported heightened levels of neuroticism and introversion in adults who stutter (Bharath & Pranesha, 1970; Hegde, 1972; Ying, Yu, & Baokun, 2003), whilst others have suggested that adults who stutter are no more neurotic or maladjusted than fluent adults (Andrews et al., 1983; Bloch & Goodstein, 1971).

Failure to find conclusive evidence of a distinct personality profile among adults who stutter has generally occurred regardless of the measures used to evaluate personality (Bloodstein & Bernstein Ratner, 2008; Goodstein, 1958; Sermas & Cox, 1982). In particular, the Minnesota Multiphasic Personality Inventory (MMPI) (Hathaway & McKinley, 1967) has been employed in numerous studies, often with ambiguous results (Lanyon, 1966; Ying et al., 2003). For instance, Sermas and Cox (1982) reported no significant differences in MMPI scores for a sample of stuttering individuals when compared with two groups of psychiatric patients. Treon et al. (2006), on the other hand, found that overall scores on the MMPI-2/A (Butcher, Dahlstrom, Graham, & Tellegen, 1989, 1992) were significantly higher on overall tendency towards psychopathology in adolescents and adults who stutter when compared with matched controls. Less recent MMPI studies have indicated that higher levels of neuroticism and other personality facets often found in adults who stutter may not actually exceed normal limits (Dahlstrom & Craven, 1952; Walnut, 1954).

The Eysenck Personality Inventory (EPI) (Eysenck & Eysenck, 1964) has also been used to assess personality in stuttering samples (Bharath & Pranesha, 1970; McDonough & Quesal, 1988; Ying et al., 2003). For instance, Hegde (1972) administered the EPI to a large sample of adults who stutter, and compared their scores with normative scores for psychiatric and normal individuals. The stuttering group demonstrated high introversion scores which were similar to, though slightly less than, a sample of anxiety patients. In addition, although neuroticism scores for the stuttering group fell within normal limits, over half of the sample was categorized as 'neurotic', with scores exceeding those of the general population. Guitar (1976) also administered the EPI to two groups of adults seeking treatment for stuttering, and found that increased neuroticism was associated with more negative attitudes about stuttering.

Overall, ambiguity regarding the link between stuttering and personality (Prins, 1972) may be attributed to the different types of measures used to assess personality. Goodstein (1958), in particular, has highlighted the difficulties inherent in making generalizations about the personality profiles of adults who stutter due to the lack of standardized personality inventories used in past research. Furthermore, even when standardized personality inventories are used, different measures vary in terms of the characteristics they are designed to assess. For instance, the MMPI is typically used as a clinical measure of psychopathology and personality adjustment (Sermas & Cox, 1982), whereas the EPI measures the personality dimensions of Extraversion, Neuroticism and Psychoticism. Although these measures assess similar factors, they do not directly overlap (Curtin, Walker, Baden, & Schulz, 1995; Montag & Comrey, 1982).

More recently, Susca (2006) has suggested that the full-length NEO Personality Inventory-Revised (NEO PI-R) and the shortened-version NEO Five Factor Inventory (NEO-FFI) (Costa & McCrae, 1992b) may hold promise in exploring whether personality differences exist between adults who stutter and adults who do not stutter. Both the NEO PI-R and the NEO-FFI were developed as measures of the Five Factor Model of Personality (FFM) (Digman, 1990), which is a dominant model of personality in the field of psychology (Laverdiere et al., 2007). The FFM theorizes that individual differences in emotional, interpersonal and motivational styles can be summarized by the five basic personality factors of Neuroticism, Extraversion, Openness, Agreeableness, and Conscientiousness.

According to this model (see Costa & McCrae, 1992b; McCrae, 1991), Neuroticism is characterized by susceptibility to psychological distress and the experience of negative emotions such as fear, sadness, anger, and embarrassment. Individuals scoring low on Neuroticism are generally calm, unemotional and hardy, whereas individuals scoring high on Neuroticism have a tendency towards self-consciousness, emotionality and vulnerability. Secondly, the personality dimension of Extraversion refers to an individual's propensity to demonstrate qualities of extraversion and/or introversion. Individuals scoring low on Extraversion tend to be introverted, reserved and independent, whereas individuals scoring high on Extraversion are typically sociable, talkative, and energetic. Thirdly,

متن کامل مقاله

دریافت فوری ←

**ISI**Articles

مرجع مقالات تخصصی ایران

- ✓ امکان دانلود نسخه تمام متن مقالات انگلیسی
- ✓ امکان دانلود نسخه ترجمه شده مقالات
- ✓ پذیرش سفارش ترجمه تخصصی
- ✓ امکان جستجو در آرشیو جامعی از صدها موضوع و هزاران مقاله
- ✓ امکان دانلود رایگان ۲ صفحه اول هر مقاله
- ✓ امکان پرداخت اینترنتی با کلیه کارت های عضو شتاب
- ✓ دانلود فوری مقاله پس از پرداخت آنلاین
- ✓ پشتیبانی کامل خرید با بهره مندی از سیستم هوشمند رهگیری سفارشات