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First part of a french validation of an Ambivalent Sexism toward Men Inventory



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Introduction

We often forget sexism toward men and its deleterious effects. So, this study aimed to translate the AMI ^{A,B} in order to couple it with other scales in French and to show possible correlations (e.g., with adherence to rape myths ^C). Also, this french version could complete the Ambivalent Sexism Inventory (ASI ^D) which measures the sexism against women. The ASI was also validated in a french version ^E.

☞ The **Ambivalent Sexism Toward Men** can be divided into 6 sub-groups of stereotypes between Benevolence (B) & Hostility (H) :

- **H(P) Resentment of paternalism** : a rejection of the patriarchal ideology. (e.g., « Most men pay lip service to equality for women, but can't handle having a woman as an equal »)

- **B(M) Maternalism** : presupposes an obvious fragility in men. (e.g., « Even if both members of a couple work, the woman ought to be more attentive to taking care of her man at home »)

- **H(G) Compensory Gender Differentiation** : Men are like children, they are incapable of anything without women. (e.g., « Men would be lost in this world if women weren't there to guide them »)

- **B(G) Complementary Gender Differentiation** : men are there to protect women who are fragile. (e.g., « Men are more willing to take risks than women »)

- **H(S) Heterosexual Hostility** : men are ready to do anything to show their domination (at work, in sex ...). (e.g., « Men usually try to dominate conversations when talking to women »)

- **B(S) Heterosexual Intimacy** : heterosexual romantic relationships are essential for personal development. (e.g., « Every woman needs a mal partner who will cherish her »)

☞ **The aim** is to carry out a first part of the translation of the AMI in a French version according to the method proposed by Vallerand ^F.

☞ **Hypotheses** :

H1 : A 2-factor structure (a) completed by 6 sub-dimensions (b) makes it possible to explain a greater part of inter-subject variance.

H2 : Women are more sexist (a) and more hostile (b) than men.

Method

☞ **The AMI** includes 20 items divided in : 10 for (B) & 10 for (H) as follows : 3 H(P), 3 B(M), 3 H(G), 3 B(G), 4 H(S) and 4 B(S). Adherence to these items is measured by a Likert-type scale ranging from : 0 (Disagree Strongly) → 5 (Agree Strongly)

☞ **Participants** : Students in 1st Year of Psychology, n = 375 (324 ♀, 51 ♂) ; age between 18 and 38 (M = 19.05 ; sd = 1.90)

☞ **Time 1 : Translation**. Two French versions were worked on simultaneously and then compared (with each other and with the ASI^D) in order to arrive at a third version.

☞ **Time 2 : Scale Infills**. It took place at the beginning of lectures, without remuneration, and with debriefing at the end.

Two-Factor Model :		
Bartlett	X ² (190)	2311.55
		p < .001
KMO	Global KMO	0.88
	Each KMO _i	≥ 0.80
Saturation	Each Saturation	> 0.40
Reliability	Hostility	α = .85
	Benevolence	α = .80

Parallel Analyses Method ;
Exploratory factor analyses (Oblimin rotation)

(H)		t	(B)		t	
Q2	H(S)	3.737	***	Q1	B(M)	-1.521
Q4	H(S)	1.708	*	Q3	B(G)	-1.325
Q6	H(G)	3.702	***	Q5	B(S)	-1.027
Q8	H(G)	4.985	***	Q7	B(S)	0.114
Q9	H(P)	4.571	***	Q10	B(M)	-0.785
Q11	H(P)	2.583	**	Q12	B(S)	0.857
Q14	H(S)	1.008		Q13	B(G)	-1.384
Q15	H(P)	1.797	*	Q16	B(S)	-1.360
Q17	H(G)	2.568	**	Q18	B(G)	-1.401
Q19	H(S)	2.380	**			
Q20	B(M)	2.642	**			

* p < .05; ** p < .01; *** p < .001

Table 2 : Gender differences in (H) and (B) between ♀ and ♂ (T-tests)

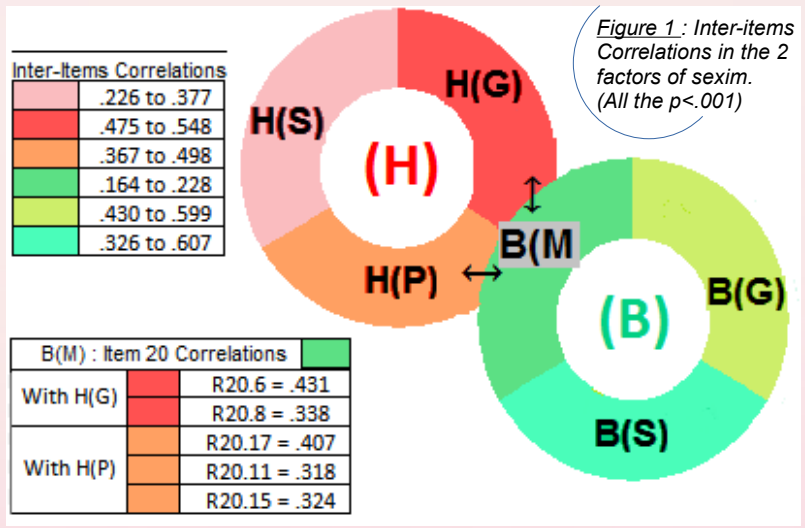


Figure 1 : Inter-items Correlations in the 2 factors of sexism. (All the p < .001)

Results

☞ **H1** : The 2-Factor structure appears to be the best to explain the variances in the data. The results showed satisfactory reliability (Table 1) and predictive validity (Figure 1). However, although Benevolence (B) is clearly divided into 3 sub-dimensions, it seems less appropriate to repeat this same division for Hostility (H). Indeed, the items (H) are significantly correlated with each other but don't show a distinction between H(G), H(P) and H(S) as clear as in (B).

☞ **Item 20 B(M)** : This item « Women ought to take care of their men at home, because men would fall apart if they had to fend for themselves » supposed to measure B(M), showed higher correlations with H(G) and H(P).

☞ **H2** : The gender effect was significant for items (H) : women (♀) were more hostile than men (♂) compared to men. However, no significant effect of gender could be observed for the items (B). (Table 2)

Table 1. Statistics tests

Discussion

☞ The sexism toward ♂ is a set of ambivalent attitudes between (B) and (H). Maternalism also seems to be in this ambivalence (item 20). Indeed, the idea that ♀ have to protect and help ♂ ((B)) comes perhaps from the other idea that they are like children: immature, incapable ((H)).

☞ The difficulty of sub-categorization in (H) could come from the low number of items.

☞ **Future Studies** : First, we must continue and finish this scale validation by the method proposed by Vallerand^F (2nd step in progress via the internet). Studies should also look more deeply at the link between B(M) and (H).

☞ **Limits** : a) **Sample**: small, students, women → Difficult generalization of the results b) **Statistics**: we have not studied equivalence and stability over time via a "test-retest" (it's currently in progress). We must not forget that a factor-analysis remains only an approximation of the observed / observable effects.

☞ **Implications** : Prevention seems important. Indeed, knowing and better understanding sexism (towards ♀ and ♂) would certainly make it possible to reduce inter-gender behavioral differences. We can think of people who receive the speech from victims of sexual assault (magistrates, police officers, psychologists, etc.). We can also include education professionals : this prevention can be done from an early age (sexist stereotypes aren't yet fully integrated into memory)

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