

Interpersonal competence in peer relationships of the same sex  
and the opposite sex among adolescent females

Katsuhide MOROI, Kouichi ASANO, Keisuke ITOH,  
Naoko ITOH, and Mihoko WATANABE

The present study examined (a) the factor structure of interpersonal competence across different types of relationship partners, and (b) the relationships between interpersonal competence and other measures (personality traits, social anxiety, and friendship). Questionnaires were administered to adolescent females ( $N=242$ ). The Interpersonal Competence Questionnaire (ICQ; Buhrmester *et al.* 1988) and the Social Anxiousness Scale (SAS; Leary, 1983) were revised to indicate their level of competence(IC) or anxiety(SA) in interacting with same-sex friends or opposite-sex friends. They were asked the number of close friends and casual friends of the same sex and the opposite sex, and assessed their subjective feelings of satisfaction with current relationships. As predicted, principal-components analyses of ICQ yielded five components for both same-sex friends and opposite-sex friends. According to a series of multiple regression analyses, same-sex-IC accounted for unique variances of same-sex-SA, while opposite-sex-IC accounted for unique variances of opposite-sex-SA. Characteristics of heterosocial relationships were uniquely related to opposite-sex-IC. However, friendships of the same sex were not necessarily uniquely affected by same-sex-IC. In general, the findings provide some evidence of the usefulness of distinguishing between two kinds of interpersonal competence.

**Key words:** interpersonal competence, social anxiety, the Interpersonal Competence Questionnaire, the Social Anxiousness Scale, Chiba University Personality Inventory