How do individuals perceive causes of daily events? : The reliability and validity of the Attributional Complexity Scale

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The present study tested the reliability of the Attributional Complexity Scale, and examined the discriminant and convergent validity of the scale. The Attributional Complexity Scale (ACS; Fletcher *et al.* 1986), the Self-Rating Depression Scale (SDS; Zung, 1965), and the Causal Dimension Scale (CDS; developed by the author) were administered to female adolescents ($N = 325$). The principal-components analyses of ACS didn't yield the seven constructs which Fletcher *et al.* assumed, but showed uni-dimensionality of ACS. The scale had adequate internal reliability. The regression analysis indicated an U-shaped relationship between attributional complexity and depression. Subjects were asked the major cause for the most desirable (or undesirable) event they experienced, and then evaluated it on the CDS. The confirmatory factor analyses were executed examining the goodness of fit of the hypothesized five factor oblique structure to the data. The five-factor model was found to provide an excellent fit to the data. (stability, locus of causality, globality, personal control, other control) Among subjects with high attributionlal complexity, the correlations between depression and CDS were found to be consistent with the depressive attributional style hypothesis (Seligman *et al.*, 1979). The utility of ACS was discussed.

Key words : attributional complexity, causal dimension scale, depression, depressive attributional style