

Loneliness and Telephone Communication among University Students

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This study examined (a) the factor structures of attitudes toward telephone/telephone communication, telephone communication apprehension, and communication apprehension, and (b) the relationships among loneliness and those factors. Four scales were administered to university students ($N=249$). The scales were a 8-item version of the UCLA Loneliness Scale, Communication Apprehension Scale (10-item) developed by the author based on McCroskey's conception, a 42-item scale of attitudes toward telephone/telephone communication, and a 16-item scale of telephone communication apprehension.

The results are as follows.

1)The factor analysis (the principal factor method with varimax rotation) indicated that the attitudes toward telephone/telephone communication were consisted of eight factors for either males or females (males: gratification of affiliative need, non-laboriousness, facilitation of coversations, false communication, exaggeration, communication with family members, sense of face-to-face interaction, instant communication; females: gratification of affiliative need, facilitation of coversations, non-laboriousness, false communication, relaxation, instant communication, exaggeration, voice communication).

2)According to the results of multiple regression analyses, for males, there were no significant relationships among loneliness and the attitudes toward telephone/telephone communication, while, for females, loneliness was significantly determined by instant communication and exaggeration.