

Projective tests using Napping®, the Rorschach test revisited: are the cultural differences between Asians and Caucasians significant?

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“In psychology, a projective test is a personality test designed to let a person respond to ambiguous stimuli, presumably revealing hidden emotions and internal conflicts. (...) The best known and most frequently used projective test is the Rorschach inkblot test, in which a subject is shown a series of ten irregular but symmetrical inkblots, and asked to explain what he/she sees. The subject's responses are then analyzed in various ways, noting not only what was said, but the time taken to respond, which aspect of the drawing was focused on (...) (Wikipedia).”

The aim of this study is to revisit the Rorschach test by using the inkblots as a support and the napping® as a way to project the subject's personality on a map (tablecloth). The idea of the napping®, aka projective mapping, is to position a set of items on a tablecloth according to how they are perceived to be related (Pagès, 2005). Data are then analyzed using multiple factor analysis (Escofier and Pagès, J, 1988-1998) applied on groups of x-coordinates and y-coordinates for the set of inkblots, one group being associated to one subject. In addition the subject may describe the items once positioned: those descriptions are used to supplement the items' position and to enhance the interpretation of the tablecloth.

In our study, we asked two groups of 20 subjects, Asians on the one hand, Caucasians on the other hand, to perform the task previously described as we wanted to check the hypothesis of difference of perception between the two cultures. To answer that question we applied a hierarchical multiple factor analysis (Le Dien and Pagès, 2003) on the data considering first two groups of variables, the two cultures; then 40 groups of coordinates, one per subject. Such analysis allowed balancing the part of each subject within his culture as well as the part of both cultures. It allowed also comparing both cultures within one single framework.

References

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