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著者	ONO NAOHIRO
journal or publication title	Tohoku psychologica folia
volume	39
page range	105-112
year	1981-03-21
URL	http://hdl.handle.net/10097/63940

THE CHARACTERISTIC MMPI PROFILE PATTERNS OF YOUTHFUL JAPANESE DELINQUENTS

By
NAOHIRO O N O (小野直広)¹

(Tohoku University)

The main MMPI code classes we got from Japanese delinquent youngsters were 43, 46, 4-, 42 and 49 (1969), while in the Minnesota survey (1953) American juvenile delinquents provided codes 49, 46 and 48 as typical patterns.

It is assumed that delinquent boys in Japan might be less aggressive and hostile in character than those in America, since codes 43 or 42 were likely to represent more passive personality features than codes 49 or 48. In order to examine that assumption, the present study was conducted with the similar procedure at an interval of a decade.

Some of the facts obtained seems to support the assumption.

(1) As the highest-point code, 4 is alone in higher frequency than the previous one, while 9 is in lower.

(2) In percentage of two-point codes occurrence, 4- and 41 are both larger than the previous ones, and none is smaller.

(3) The mean MMPI profile is coded as 43, but it could be convertible into code 42, if applied to the Minnesota *T* standard. The converted code 42 covers 41% of cases out of our whole sample.

We had no adequate reference book of MMPI in Japan in those days when we attempted the previous study (Ono et al., 1969, 1970). The purpose of our study was to provide a sort of norm to which an individual profile was referable, especially for the classification of juvenile delinquents.

STUDY I

METHOD

Subjects: The delinquent group consisted of 288 boys (mean age 17.7, SD 1.23) and 64 girls (16.1, SD 1.16). As control groups high school students were served: 277 boys (mean age 17.0, SD 1.39) and 194 girls (16.3, SD .72).

Procedure: The Booklet Form MMPI (Japanese version by Abe et al.) was administered to them. Valid standard fixed on the test scores was as follows: $? < 50$, $L < 10$, and $F < 16$. The number of the *Ss* above were valid ones.

Social data for each *S* were collected from either formal documents available or comments by teachers.

1. Department of Psychology, Faculty of Arts and Letters, Tohoku University, Kawauchi, Sendai, Japan

RESULTS

(1) In the comparisons of MMPI values between these groups (see Table 1), the delinquent boys gave significantly higher scores than the students on almost all clinical scales. The delinquent girls also provided significantly higher points on many scales (D, Pd, Pa and Sc) than the students, while the relation was reverse on scale Si.

(2) In the comparison of high-point codes occurrences (see Table 2), it seemed that scales convenient to differentiate delinquents from non-delinquents were D, Pd, Pa and Pt for boys, while Pd and Si (in the reversed direction) for girls.

(3) Two-point codes which occurred at high rate (over 5% in each group) were as follows: 9- for boy students; 43 and 46 for delinquent boys; 5- and 9- for girl students; 5-, 4-, 42, 43, 49 and 54 for delinquent girls.

Table 1. Means and standard deviations on each MMPI scale for students and delinquent boys

Scale	Students (N=200)		Delinquents (N=200)	
	Mean	SD	Mean	SD
L	4.65	2.06	5.76	2.14***
F	8.23	3.34	10.00	2.83***
K	14.24	4.10	14.55	4.10
Hs	14.68	4.20	15.88	4.22**
D	25.36	4.87	27.51	4.41**
Hy	23.35	4.71	24.14	5.10
Pd	23.87	3.72	28.91	4.87***
Mf	25.81	3.80	26.35	3.71
Pa	11.48	3.14	13.15	3.18***
Pt	29.59	5.12	32.06	4.81***
Sc	30.97	5.70	32.64	5.23**
Ma	19.30	3.80	19.47	3.67
Si	29.70	9.00	32.08	7.35***

*** $p < 0.001$, ** $p < 0.01$.

Table 2. Percentage of high-point occurrences on each MMPI scale for students and delinquents ($T \geq 55$)

Scale	Boys		Girls	
	Students (N=277)	Delinquen. (N=288)	Students (N=194)	Delinquen. (N=64)
X-	18.4***	5.6	20.6***	3.1
Hs	21.7	35.1***	17.0	18.8
D	16.2	31.6***	13.9	26.6**
Hy	37.5	43.1	22.2	32.8
Pd	22.4	67.0***	19.1	65.6***
Mf	23.8	24.0	23.2	45.3**
Pa	25.3	45.5***	15.5	18.8
Pt	21.7	37.2	21.1	25.0
Sc	20.6	28.1*	21.1	29.7
Ma	37.5	38.2	30.4	34.3
Si	28.5	24.0	23.7*	10.9

(4) When scale 4 as peak was paired with others, the following combinations were prominent in delinquents: 43, 46, 4-, 42 and 49 for boys; and 4-, 42, 45, 43 and 49 for girls: while they were hardly found among the non-delinquents.

DISCUSSION

According to Hathaway and Monachesi (1953), when scale 4 is found in combination with scales 3, 8, and especially with 9, the delinquency rate is elevated, while codes 41, 47 or particularly 42 reduce the delinquency rate below the level expected for boys in general.

In spite of their conclusions, codes 41, 47 and 42 were popular as well as 43 and 49 in our delinquent samples. It suggests that juvenile delinquents in our country consists of two main components: passive type and moderate aggressive one. And the former seems to be getting a majority by and by.

Scale 1, 2, or 3, together with scale 9 having a moderate but negative loading, is respectively known to compose a factor, that is, 'factor R' labeled by Welsh (1956). According to him, it relates to dependence upon mechanisms of denial and rationalization and to lack of effective self-insight. When scale 4 is in combination with these scales, what effects would be expected?

Perhaps two types of behavior will be observed: 4' dominant type and 'R' major. Of course each phenotype should be under the influence of another component, either in the direction to conform to or to offset each other.

STUDY II

A decade has passed since our previous study was performed. In Japan juvenile delinquency has markedly calmed down since then. Of course the number of offences committed has decreased slightly, but change in quality of them is very prominent. Minor offences such as shoplifting or traffic violation, and dependence on 'sex, speed and intoxication' have been more and more taking place of serious offences, especially of violence.

The tendency of juvenile delinquency becoming less aggressive should reflect similar variation in the character of particular offenders. And the variation may be reflected on MMPI profiles, for example, in the form of preponderance of scale 4's paired with 'factor R'. Thus Study II was attempted in 1979.

METHOD

Subjects: 150 delinquent boys (mean age 17.8, SD 1.20) are served as Ss in Study II, who are under the same conditions as the delinquent sample of Study I, and who all passed through the valid standard on MMPI validity scales out of 196 boys. Girls were too small in number to serve for comparative study.

Procedure: Just the same with the previous ones.

RESULTS

In the comparisons of Sample I (1969) and Sample II (1979), following facts are recognized as significant outcomes of Study II.

(1) Mean scale scores (K-corrected): No significant difference is found in any scale scores between the two samples.

(2) The first high-point code: Code 4 is larger, and 9 is smaller in frequency of occurrence in Sample II than Sample I (see Table 3).

(3) Two-point code: Only two code classes show significant differences in frequency of occurrence, 4- and 41, both greater in Sample II (see Table 4).

(4) Low-point code: Code -9 is greater, and -X is smaller in frequency of occurrence in Sample II.

Table 3. Percentage of peak-point code occurrences in Sample I and II.

code	Sample I (N=288)	Sample II (N=150)
1	4.9	8.0
2	4.5	3.3
3	10.4	8.7
4	38.5	52.0*
5	4.5	3.3
6	6.9	5.3
7	4.2	4.7
8	1.7	.
9	12.5*	6.0
0	6.3	2.7

* $p < 0.05$

Table 4. Percentage of Two-point code occurrences in Sample I and II.

code	Sample I	Sample II
13	.	3.3
14	.	3.3
31	3.1	.
34	3.5	3.3
4-	4.9	12.0***
41	3.1	7.3**
42	4.5	4.7
43	7.6	8.7
46	5.2	7.3
49	4.2	.
40	3.1	.

*** $p < 0.001$, ** $p < 0.01$

DISCUSSION

The result (1) implies that the constructions of the two samples are not different in essentials. In particular, however, certain variations are recognized: Code 4

(*Psychopathic deviation*) is increased, and 9 (*Hypomania*) decreased. In details of increased part of scale 4's we recognize two certain subgroups, that is, code 4- and 41, on which we found following characteristics through Study I.

4-: rather good-natured; cheerful; restless; weak-willed; following blindly.

41: shallow; inconstant; thoughtless.

We can not find definite differences between their implications.

In code 41, it may be implied that scale 4 likely is phenotype in this type of combination, while scale 1 is latent. That is, scale 1 (*Hypochondriasis*) in this code type may reflect situational conditions (e.g. moderate hospitalism) more than basic personality traits. And these passive traits or behaviors would move back when traits of scale 4 are superior. On this occasion, S's acting-out could not be inhibited effectively. While delinquent boys who provide code 4- have 'relatively simple, cheerful and weak-willed' character. In effect these code types appear to reflect rather 'weak-willed' character than active-aggressive one.

According to McMahan (1970), percentage of codes from male North Carolina youthful offenders (N=183) are as follows: the first high-point code, 4(48%), 9(20.2), 8(9.7) and 7(7.0); two-point code, 49 & 94 (24.6%), 42 & 24(13.6), 48 & 84 (7.1), and 47 & 74 (6.5). At a glance one can acknowledge the prevalent occurrence of scales 4 and 9, and dominance of code 49.

Psychological phase of code 49 is in short, 'clear manifestations of psychopathic behavior', as the hypomania seemingly energizes or activates the pattern related to scale 4 (Dahlstrom et al. 1960).

Through Study I we also got the traits of code 49: 'cheerful, restless, flippant, doing without considering the consequences, and doing things by halves'. Being seemingly sociable, they are selfish in essentials, not conformable. Therefore, this code occurs often among repeated offenders (Ono et al. 1970).

The preponderance of code 49 in McMahan's sample suggests the contrast of qualities between American youthful offenders and Japanese ones. The former in general would be more energetic, rough, impulsive and aggressive than the latter.

There are, however, some problems in cross-cultural comparisons remaining. For one thing, we should use the same common standard of assessment. According to Abe (1969), when personality of normal Japanese is profiled according to the American standard of assessment, it shows much elevated figure. He found out that scales 2, 7 and 8 were much influenced by conversion of norms.

Mean MMPI profile of our Sample II is coded as '43-X on the Japanese standard, while it changes to 42'8763150-X on the Minnesota norm (see Fig. 1).

Table 5 shows percentage of two-point codes occurrence in Sample II, applied to both norms. Nearly half (41.4%) of our cases are absorbed in codes 42 & 24 on the Minnesota norm. The rate is much greater than the one (13.6%) in McMahan's sample.

Table 5. Frequencies of two-point codes from Sample II to which applied Japanese *T*-standard, then Minnesota one.

code	on Japanese norm	on Minnesota norm
13	3.3%	4.0
14	3.3	.
24	.	16.7
34	3.3	.
4-	12.0	.
41	7.3	.
42	4.7	24.7
43	8.7	.
46	7.3	.
47	.	3.3
48	.	4.0
74	3.3	6.7

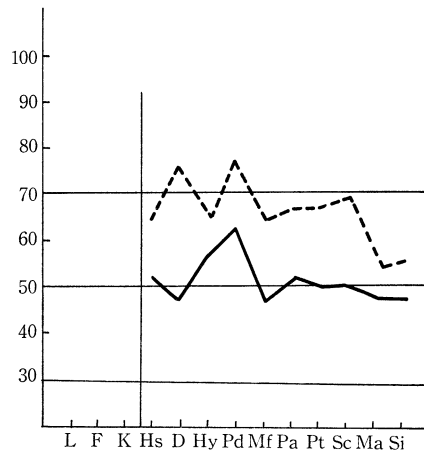


Fig. 1. Variation on mean MMPI profile of Sample II when the *T* standard is converted: solid line is the profile according to Japanese norm, while broken line is the one on Minnesota norm.

STUDY III

From the foregoing facts, the author attempted to investigate which norm is more adequate to apply for Japanese youngsters: the American norm or the Japanese one ?

Procedure is as follows.

- (1) All *Ss* with code 42 on the Minnesota norm are picked up from Sample II.
- (2) They are reclassified according to the Japanese norm to two-point code classes, which result in six or seven categories (codes X-, 4-, 41, 42, 43 and 46).
- (3) From their records, the adjectives used to describe *Ss*' personality are taken out and classified into seven categories. These categories come up rather naturally, in the process of arranging the adjectives according to their similarity or seeming

relativity. They are denominated as: a) Socially extroverted b) Hysterical c) Aggressive d) Immature e) Weak-willed f) Socially introverted g) Neurotic

(4) Category a), for example, consists of the following adjectives: 'easygoing, optimistic; cheerful, bright, lively; flippant, thoughtless; chiming in with' etc. Particular adjective from the description of every *S* is plotted according to these subcategories. The results are shown in Fig. 2.

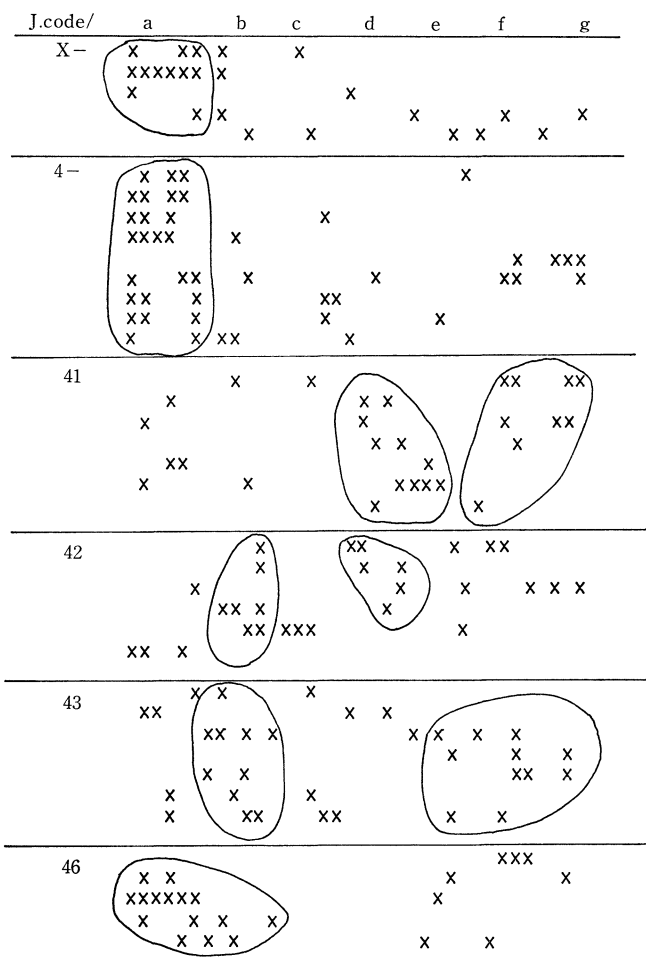


Fig. 2. Distribution of adjectives used to describe *Ss* who provided code 42 on the Minnesota norm, which is cross-referred with the Japanese norm.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

In Fig. 2, adjectives for an individual *S* are represented with asterisks arranged along a horizontal line. Adjectives describing delinquency are excluded from this analysis, because they are common to *Ss* as a *constant*. As they were picked up from

the records which were written in free style, the vocabulary used is not limited. So it is hard to analyse them statistically. But visually, it shows two facts, that is, (1) some of reclassified codes (on the Japanese norm) present their own characteristics, but (2) another codes (X-, 4- and 46) give a common trait, that is, 'socially extroverted'.

Applied to the Minnesota norm alone, the young Japanese delinquents would be described roughly as 'socially extroverted', as in case of code 42. The Minnesota norm of assesment is likely too broad to apply to our samples. Adjectives of Ss with code 42 on the Japanese norm form two small groups, 'hysterical' and 'immature'. They do not fall into 'socially extroverted'. The Japanese norm seems to be better suited for Japanese populations.

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(Received October 31, 1980)