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Bem Sex Inventory - Means and SD of the BSRI Items Among Turkish Male and Female University Students in Mersin

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Abstract

The aim of this study was to apply the masculinity and femininity scales of Bem Sex Role Inventory (BSRI) Turkish version (Özkan, T., Lajunen, T., 2005) is among Toros University students in Mersin, Turkey. Four hundred fifty-one students (262 women and 189 men) volunteered to complete the short-form of the Bem Sex Role Inventory (BSRI) Turkish version. The masculinity and femininity scores were compared between men and women. Men scored higher on masculinity (M = 96.10, SD = 16.11). Similarly, women scored higher on femininity (M = 102.87, SD = 17.41). Comparisons between men and women showed a statistically significant difference on the masculinity scale of the BSRI, t(449) = −4.36, p<0.001, and there was significant difference on the femininity scale of the BSRI, t(449) = 5.21, p < .001. There was no significant difference on the androgyny scale of BSRI, t(449) = 0.87, p=0.383. Table lists item means and SD for men and women and the corresponding t-test values. Table shows that significant differences were found on eight items of the masculinity scale of the BSRI (items 10, 13, 31, 40, 46, 49, 55 and 58), whereas a statistically significant difference between men and women was found on twelve femininity items (items 2, 11, 14, 17, 20, 26, 32, 35, 38, 47, 50 and 59). There were also significant differences between men and women only on two “androgyny” items of the BSRI (items 21 and 33).

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Keywords: Bem Sex Role Inventory (BSRI) Turkish version, Mersin, University Students

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The Bem Sex-Role Inventory is a measure of masculinity-femininity and gender roles. It assesses how people identify themselves psychologically. Bem's goal of the BSRI was to examine psychological androgyny and provide empirical evidence to show the advantage of a shared masculine and feminine personality versus a sex-typed categorization (Bem, S. L., 1981). In 1974, Bem developed the Bem Sex-Role Inventory (BSRI), an instrument used to measure gender role perceptions. The BSRI is a widely used instrument in psychology and other fields because it measures masculine and feminine gender roles separately, is able to yield a measure of androgyny, and has adequate psychometric properties (Holt, Cheryl L. and Jon B. Ellis, 1998).

Methodology

Four hundred fifty-one students (262 women and 189 men) participated in this study. The ages of the participants ranged from 18-25, with the average age being around 22 years. Individuals were asked to volunteer from Toros University. A survey packet was distributed to participants including directions. All of the data was collected in Toros University. The experimenter distributed survey packets and asked that the participants complete the questionnaire according to the instructions provided. A statement on the cover page of the questionnaire packets informed the participants that their responses would remain anonymous and that participation is completely voluntary. The procedure, instructions, and materials used in the present study were identical to the method that Bem (1974) used to validate the adjectives in the BSRI.

Findings

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Bem Sex Inventory - Means and SD of the BSRI Items Among Turkish Male and Female University Students in Mersin</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Masculinity items</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mean (SD)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>96.10 (16.11)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1. Self Rel’an</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. Defends own belief</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7. Independent</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10. Athletic</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13. Assertive</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16. Strong personality</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19. Forceful</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>22. Analytical</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25. Leadership ability</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>28. Willing to take risk</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>31. Makes decisions easily</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>34. Self-sufficient</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>37. Dominant</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>40. Masculine</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>43. Willing to take a stand</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>46. Aggressive</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>49. Acts as a leader</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>52. Individualistic</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>55. Competitive</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>58. Ambitious</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Femininity items</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mean (SD)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>94.89 (13.95)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Yielding</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5. Cheerful</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8. Shy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11. Affectionate</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14. Flatterable</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17. Loyal</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20. Feminine</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>23. Sympathetic</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>26. Sensitive to other’s needs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>29. Understanding</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>32. Compassionate</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>35. Conceited</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>38. Soft spoken</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>41. Warm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>44. Tender</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>47. Gallibile</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
## Results

The masculinity and femininity scores were compared between men and women. Men scored higher on masculinity ($M = 96.10, SD = 16.11$). Similarly, women scored higher on femininity ($M = 102.87, SD = 17.41$). Comparisons between men and women showed a statistically significant difference on the masculinity scale of the BSRI, $t(449) = -4.36, p < .001$, and there was significant difference on the femininity scale of the BSRI, $t(449) = 5.21, p < .001$. There was no significant difference on the androgyny scale of BSRI, $t(449) = 0.87, p = 0.383$. Table lists item means and SD for men and women and the corresponding $t$-test values. Table shows that significant differences were found on eight items of the masculinity scale of the BSRI (items 10, 13, 31, 40, 46, 49, 55 and 58), whereas a statistically significant difference between men and women was found on twelve femininity items (items 2, 11, 14, 17, 20, 26, 32, 35, 38, 47, 50 and 59). There were also significant differences between men and women only on two “androgyny” items of the BSRI (items 21 and 33) (Table).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Mean (SD) Men</th>
<th>Mean (SD) Women</th>
<th>p-value</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Childlike</td>
<td>3.26(2.00)</td>
<td>3.85(2.14)</td>
<td>.299</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Does not use harsh language</td>
<td>4.10(2.03)</td>
<td>4.38(2.29)</td>
<td>.137</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Loves children</td>
<td>5.39(1.72)</td>
<td>5.43(1.85)</td>
<td>.25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gentle</td>
<td>5.34(1.70)</td>
<td>5.72(1.57)</td>
<td>.247</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Androgyny items</td>
<td>96.31(11.87)</td>
<td>97.49(15.51)</td>
<td>.87</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Helpfun</td>
<td>5.76(1.41)</td>
<td>5.97(1.30)</td>
<td>.164</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Moody</td>
<td>2.95(1.51)</td>
<td>3.16(1.83)</td>
<td>.132</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Conscientious</td>
<td>5.62(1.51)</td>
<td>5.85(1.48)</td>
<td>.159</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Theatrical</td>
<td>2.64(1.93)</td>
<td>2.43(2.03)</td>
<td>.108</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Happy</td>
<td>5.36(1.51)</td>
<td>5.54(1.50)</td>
<td>.126</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unpredictable</td>
<td>4.83(1.70)</td>
<td>4.54(1.88)</td>
<td>.165</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reliable</td>
<td>5.72(1.69)</td>
<td>6.25(1.25)</td>
<td>.384</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jealous</td>
<td>4.51(2.01)</td>
<td>4.61(2.13)</td>
<td>.46</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Truthful</td>
<td>5.71(1.41)</td>
<td>5.92(1.52)</td>
<td>.88</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Secretive</td>
<td>6.13(1.33)</td>
<td>6.13(1.49)</td>
<td>.01</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sincere</td>
<td>5.56(1.63)</td>
<td>5.89(1.57)</td>
<td>.22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Conceited</td>
<td>2.57(1.75)</td>
<td>2.51(1.99)</td>
<td>.31</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Likable</td>
<td>5.51(1.51)</td>
<td>5.43(1.69)</td>
<td>.56</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Solemn</td>
<td>5.64(1.47)</td>
<td>5.36(1.75)</td>
<td>.80</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Friendly</td>
<td>5.71(1.35)</td>
<td>5.77(1.60)</td>
<td>.40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Inefficient</td>
<td>2.60(1.82)</td>
<td>2.56(1.99)</td>
<td>.19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Individualistic</td>
<td>5.69(1.37)</td>
<td>5.90(1.50)</td>
<td>.49</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unsystematic</td>
<td>3.24(1.90)</td>
<td>3.09(1.99)</td>
<td>.81</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tactful</td>
<td>5.70(1.36)</td>
<td>5.62(1.65)</td>
<td>.54</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Conventional</td>
<td>4.69(1.94)</td>
<td>4.87(2.03)</td>
<td>.90</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* $p < .05$.
* $p < .01$.
* $p < .001$. 

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<sup>a</sup> $p < .05$.
<sup>b</sup> $p < .01$.
<sup>c</sup> $p < .001$. 

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References

