The Metaphors Test (Barchard, Hensley, Anderson, & Walker, 2013) is a new test of emotion perception in which test takers indicate the extent to which various emotions are conveyed through written language. Verbal tests of emotion perception measure the ability to successfully decipher the emotional connotations of written language.

The Metaphors Test (Barchard et al., 2013) is a new test of emotion perception. The test includes ten metaphors with three emotions each. Participants are instructed to indicate the extent to which each item conveys the given emotions. An example item is given in Figure 1. The test is scored using proportion consensus scoring.

Results

The Metaphors Test correlated significantly with four of the five scales of the Five-Factor Personality Questionnaire (FF45) showing that it had small to moderate correlations with the Five Big Five traits. Participants who obtain high proportion consensus scores are ones who are sensitive to the people around them and understand how other people think. It therefore makes sense that the Metaphors Test would have a moderate-to-high correlation with agreeableness.

Table 1. Correlations between the Big Five and the Metaphors Test

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Dimension</th>
<th>Correlation</th>
<th>p</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Neuroticism</td>
<td>-0.30**</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Agreeableness</td>
<td>-0.58**</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Extraversion</td>
<td>-0.01</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Conscientiousness</td>
<td>0.46**</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Openness</td>
<td>0.33**</td>
<td>&lt; .001</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**p < .001

References


doi:10.1080/00223890802248869


doi:10.1037//0887-4985.4.1.26


Barchard et al. (2013) examined the relationship between the Metaphors Test and the Big Five personality dimensions using a sample of 353 university students. Only the correlations for openness and agreeableness were statistically significant, and both of these were small. The purpose of the current study is to replicate those results using a non-student sample. of range in the student sample might account for the difference in the size of the correlations. This study found a moderate correlation between the Metaphors Test and conscientiousness, which might be due to the way the Metaphors Test is scored. People who obtain proportion consensus scores are ones who are sensitive to the people around them and understand how other people think. It therefore makes sense that the Metaphors Test would have a moderate-to-high correlation with agreeableness.

This study found a much higher correlation with agreeableness (r(179) = .58) than the original study. Perhaps the correlation is due to the way the Metaphors Test is scored. People who obtain proportion consensus scores are ones who are sensitive to the people around them and understand how other people think. It therefore makes sense that the Metaphors Test would have a moderate-to-high correlation with agreeableness.

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