

Abstract

This study examined the relations between clinical manifestations and indigenous variables, including personality dimensions, negative interpersonal events and appraisal. It was hypothesized that an emic personality factor, the Interpersonal Relatedness (IR) of the Chinese Personality Assessment Inventory-2 (CPAI-2), should act as a precipitating factor in developing mental health problems, similar to the concept of sociotropy in Western psychology. Data was collected from 121 Chinese adults (aged 18-69) who completed the Sociotropy-Autonomy Scale (SAS), IR scales of the CPAI-2, measures of appraisal, distress and distress-related behaviors. Results corroborated the vulnerability hypothesis of SAS and demonstrated that indigenous constructs of Face and Harmony were more powerful than SAS in predicting clinical symptoms among Chinese. Besides, negative appraisal of negative interpersonal events that have occurred was the most salient predictor of clinical symptoms. The practical value of the CPAI-2 and clinical implications were discussed.