

Multi-Item Scale for Project:

Translation of established public health measurement instruments into Arabic and Dari (ENSURE) (English Version)

Question Text:

How satisfied are you currently...
[Wie zufrieden sind Sie gegenwärtig ...]

Answer Categories:

10 fully satisfied *[voll und ganz zufrieden]*
9
8
7
6
5
4
3
2
1 totally & completely not satisfied *[ganz & gar nicht zufrieden]*

Findings for Multi-Item Scale:

Item 4 was tested systematically. For the other items, only spontaneous responses of the test persons are available, if at all.

Do the test persons differentiate between item 1 on living situation and item 4 on housing situation?

Five test persons selected the same scale item for items 1 and 4, two of whom were from Syria (SY04, SY05) and three from Afghanistan (DA01, DA04, DA05). The answers to the respective item-specific probing questions show that the two Arabic-speaking test persons, although they selected the same answer category, understood different things (living vs. housing situation) and understood both items correctly.

Of the three Dari-speaking test persons, two stated that they understood both items in the same way (DA04, DA05), while one saw a difference (DA01). The latter test person explained this by saying that, in her opinion, the first item was about her life situation, where she lived, who she lived with and how she was physically and mentally,

whereas the last item was about how her life was. Both questions were somehow the same, but then not the same. This test person spoke fluent German. When asked whether the German translation "Wohnsituation" (living situation) corresponded to the wording in the question in the original language, she answered in the negative; she would have translated the original wording as "Lebenssituation im Gesamten" (living situation as a whole).

A similar minimal distinction that DA01 made between items 1 and 4 was also made by test person DA04, who had indicated that she understood both items in the same way. For her, both questions were very similar. Item 1 is about life as a whole, how one's (private) life is overall, and item 4 is about one's life situation, the circumstances of how one is currently living, and the needs one has in life.

For DA05, housing and living situation also have approximately the same meaning, because both times she compared her current life with her previous one. According to the interpreter, this is due to the translation, because living and dwelling are the same thing in Dari. There are no different words for "to be alive" and "to live somewhere. One can only understand such a question from the context.

Those Dari-speaking test persons who had given different information on both items, but who had summarized their entire life situation in the probing inquiry about item 4, indicated that they saw a difference between the two items. DA02 had understood the items to mean that the first referred to her past life, and the fourth referred to her current situation. Informed that both items referred to the present, DA02 changed her answer from scale point 2 to scale point 10, so that thereafter both items had the same answer category. During this interview, the interpreter also noted that the translations of both items were very similar and both referred to the life situation.

DA03 saw the difference between the items in the fact that item 1 referred to the life situation as a whole, including childhood, i.e. including one's entire life (response: scale point 6), while item 4 referred to the life situation, to the labor market, but also to the family situation (parents, spouse, children [response: scale point 4]). DA06 also stated that item 1 was about life in general (response: scale point 5) and item 4 was about the situation in which one lived (response: scale point 6).

In summary, it can be said that in the Dari-translation the word "living situation" does not seem to have been translated or understood correctly.

Other findings

The Arabic translation of the first item contained one word too many, which caused the sentence structure to be incorrect. This meant that the item as presented was incomprehensible to the test persons. To make it understandable, the interpreters read the item without the extra first word. The problem was that the words for "current-

ly" from the introduction to the question and "all in all" from item 1 did not form a grammatically correct sentence structure. In addition, according to the interpreter, "all in all" is a formulation that must be connected with a context in Arabic in order to be understandable.

Recommendations for Multi-Item Scale:

Introduction: No changes recommended.

Item 1: The wording of the item should be slightly adapted in Arabic to create a grammatically correct sentence structure and transition from the question introduction to the item.

Item 2: No changes recommended.

Response format: No changes recommended.

Cognitive Techniques:

Category Selection Probing, Comprehension Probing, Specific Probing, Emergent Probing

All Items for Question(Question Text):

How satisfied are you currently...

[Wie zufrieden sind Sie gegenwärtig ...]

-> Tested Items:

Item Text:

... with your living situation in general? (4) *[mit Ihrer Wohnsituation im Allgemeinen? (4)]*

Recommendations:

Since no Dari-speaking test person had (exclusively) thought of her living situation for this item, we recommend that translation experts be consulted once again for the Dari-language formulation. If necessary, an explanation could be added, differing from the Arabic translation or the original German formulation, in order to clarify the context.

Findings:

What do the test persons understand by the word "living situation"?

Among the Arabic-speaking test persons, there was no difference between the countries of origin Syria or Iraq in their understanding of the term "living situation". On the one hand, the term was understood as the living constellation, i.e., with whom one lives (alone, in a shared apartment or with one's family) and the number of persons in the household (SY01, SY04, SY06, IR05). On the other hand, this includes things like whether one lives in an apartment or a house (SY05, IR03), the size (SY01, IR02) and the cut of the apartment (SY02), the furnishings (IR01) and the rent (SY06). The place of residence (SY03, IR01, IR04), neighbors, living environment and neighborhood (SY03, SY05, SY06, IR02) were also included in "housing situation". In addition, two test persons also linked the term to emotional matters, namely to whether one has an apartment in which one feels comfortable and to which one can retreat (SY02, IR02).

The Dari-speaking test persons from Afghanistan, on the other hand, referred to their entire living situation when using the term "living situation" without exception and did not limit themselves to their housing situation. The housing-related things mentioned by the test persons from Afghanistan were living in an apartment or a house (DA04), living in a city (DA06), having water (DA04), and having a home (DA02), for example. In addition, many different living situation-related aspects were listed: One's own health as well as that of one's family (DA05), one's financial situation (DA05), having a job (DA03, DA06), coping with the demands in life (DA03, DA04), having friends (DA06), the status of one's asylum application (DA02), living in Germany as a refugee (DA05), the support you get from the city (DA04), the society you live in (DA06), the opportunities there are in Germany (to get educated, to study, to put your children in kindergarten) (DA04), living in safety (DA04) and peace (DA05).

Question Topic:

Public health/ Health impairments

Construct:

Life satisfaction

-> Not Tested Items:

Item Text:

all in all, with your life (1) [*alles in allem, mit Ihrem Leben? (1)*]

Question Topic:

Public health/ Health impairments

Construct:

Life satisfaction

Item Text:

with your health? (2) [*mit Ihrer Gesundheit? (2)*]

Question Topic:

Public health/ Health impairments

Construct:

Life satisfaction