INTRODUCTION

Self-criticism is a form of self-punishment and a negative evaluation of the self (Gilbert, 2000), that can be triggered when individuals face failure or make mistakes (Castilho & Pinto Gouveia, 2011). Although it is a common process in human functioning, self-criticizing in a constant and pervasive fashion can render individuals prone to the development of psychopathology and have a negative effect in individual’s social interactions (Zuroff, Moskowitz & Cote, 1999).

Thus, it becomes essential to identify and assess the forms of self-criticizing and self-reassuring that can arise in early childhood and influence the individual’s development, particularly concerning how self-criticism leads to psychopathological pathways in adolescence and adulthood (Zuroff, Moskowitz & Cote, 1999).

OBJECTIVE

To adapt and explore the psychometric properties and the latent structure of the Forms of Self-Criticizing and Reassuring Scale (FSCRS; Gilbert, et al., 2004, Portuguese version by Castilho, P. & Pinto-Gouveia, J., 2005) for Children.

METHOD

Sample

A sample of 127 children attending to the 3rd and 4th years of Elementary Schools in S. Miguel Island (Azores) participated in this study. Sixty-three participants were females (49.6%) and 64 were males (50.4%), with ages between 8 na 11 years old (M = 8.6; SD .70).

Measures

Forms of Self-Criticizing and Reassuring Scale for Children (FSCRS-C; Barreto Carvalho, Benevides, Sousa, Cabral & da Motta, 2016). Other as Shamer Scale for Children (OAS-C, Benevides, da Motta, Sousa, Cabral, Caldeira & Barreto Carvalho, 2016).

RESULTS

PRINCIPAL COMPONENT ANALYSIS

A three-factor solution was obtained from a principal component analysis (PCA) with Oblimin rotation, with good indicators of measure sample adequacy: Kaiser-Mayer-Olkin – KMO = .757; and Bartlett’s Sphericity test of $\chi^2$ = 448.934, p < .001. The first component comprised items referring to the Inadequate Self - items 17, 6, 7, 2 and 4; the second component - Reassured Self - included items 16, 8, 13, 21 and 11; and the third factor - Hated Self - included items 5, 15, 10 and 18. This three-dimensional structure of the FSCRS-C explained 49.34% of the total variance of the FSCRS-C scores: the Inadequate self dimension explained 23% of the variance, followed by Reassured self with 17.24% and, lastly, the Hated self explained 8.38% of the total variance of the FSCRS-C scores.

INTERNAL CONSISTENCY

Internal consistency vaues are presented in table 1.

TEMPORAL STABILITY

For brevity, the Hated and Inadequate self subscales were merged in a single component named Self-criticism. The FSCRS-C temporal stability was assessed with a 3 months interval. Absolute temporal stability was verified, as shown in table 2.

DISCUSSION

This preliminary study showed that the FSCRS-C three -factor solution explained a considerable variance of FSCRS-C scores, good internal consistency and temporal stability over a 3-month interval in children. The scale also presented good convergent and divergent validity with a measure of external shame for children (OAS-C).

The three-factor solution obtained in the current study presented a considerable overlap with the three-factor solution obtained in the original FSCRS for adults (Gilbert, Clarke, Hempel, Miles & Irons, 2004; Castilho & Pinto Gouveia, 2011), except for the distribution of some items in the Hated self subscale. Future studies should aim to confirm the latent structure of the FSCRS-C in larger sample of children and further explore the psychometric properties of the scale before disseminating it for clinical and research purposes.

REFERENCES