

Name of Measure: Marín and Marín Acculturation Scale (Marín, Sabogal, Marín, Otero-Sabogal, et al.,1987)

Purpose of Measure: To assess the level of acculturation among the foreign born Chinese Americans.

Author(s) of Abstract:

Rashmi Gupta Ph.D. & Alice Yick, Ph.D.

Private Practitioner, India Association of North Texas

Reference: Gupta, R., & Yick, A. (2000). Preliminary validation of the acculturation scale on Chinese Americans. Manuscript under review.

Description of measure: Marín and Marín Acculturation Scale was originally developed for use with the Hispanic population (Marín, Sabogal, Marín, Otero-Sabogal, et al., 1987). The instrument consists of 12 closed-ended items utilizing a five-point response scale. Respondents are asked for their preference with which they perform certain behaviors (i.e., language usually spoken at home, preference of the ethnicity of people at social gathering, etc.). The Likert response format consists of the following anchor points: 1 = Only Spanish, 2 = More Spanish than English, 3 = Both Equally, 4 = More English than Spanish, and 5 = Only English.

There are 3 sub-scales:

1. The Language Use sub-scale: includes five items to assess respondents proficiency and preferences for speaking a given language in a variety of settings.
2. The Media Use sub-scale: consists of three items to evaluate respondents preference for a particular language media.
3. The Ethnic Social Relations sub-scale: comprised of four items to measure respondents preferred ethnicity of social contacts.

Score are summated and averaged to calculate a general acculturation score. Higher scores reflect a higher level of acculturation while lower scores reflect lower level of acculturation. Scores in the middle indicate bi-culturalism. Marín et al. (1987) reported an alpha coefficient of .92. Validity was established by examining correlational strength with convergent variables: generational level ($r = .65$), length of residence in U.S. ($r = .70$), and respondents' self-evaluation of their ethnic identification ($r = .76$). To assess the performance of this measure with a sample of Chinese adults, the word "Chinese" was substituted for the term Spanish.

Language Availability: translated and back translated into Chinese and English

Translation Comments: Not described

Description of Asian population: A total of 237 respondents (118 males and 119 females) participated in the research study. The sample age ranged from 18 years to 86 years of age, with a median age of 41 years. About 69% ($n = 164$) were married. The remaining subjects (30.8%, $N = 73$) identified as "other". More than a third of the sample completed junior college, and more than a quarter attained post-college degrees. The majority of the respondents immigrated from China, followed by Taiwan and Hong Kong. On average, the respondents resided in the United States for more than a decade (mean

=12.8 years). Forty one percent of the respondents did not identify with any specific religion. Of those who reported identifying with a specific religion, approximately a third (32.5%) associated themselves with Buddhism, and more than a fifth (21.1%) with the Protestant religion.

Norms:

Means and standard deviations for scale items and Cronbach alpha coefficients for the sub-scales of the Marín et al. (1987) acculturation scale for Chinese immigrant adults (N = 229)

Item/Sub-scale	Mean	S.D.	Alpha
Preferred Language Used in Personal Life			.83
Language used for thinking	1.89	1.17	
Language used as a child	1.18	.56	
Read and speak	2.46	1.00	
<i>Prefer children's friends</i>			
Language at home	1.78	1.03	
Language with friends	2.41	1.07	
Preferred Language Use for Media			.93
Language on TV	3.19	1.14	
Language on radio	3.24	1.27	
Language in movies	3.03	1.25	
Preferred language for ethnic social relations			.84
Prefer close friends	1.98	.88	
Prefer to be at social gatherings	2.34	.87	
Prefer friends visit	2.15	.81	

The average summed acculturation score across the 12 items for this sample was 2.37.

Reliability: Based on the responses with this sample of Chinese adults, the Cronbach alpha was .92 for the 12 items.

Validity: A confirmatory factor analysis did not support the original 3-factor model. The item (Preference for children's friends) was moved to the Preferred Language Use sub-scale from the Ethnic Social Relations factor. All 12 items and 3 factors were otherwise retained. Evidence of convergent and discriminant validity was found. Acculturation scores were significantly correlated with length of residence in the U.S and with the preferred language used in the interview ($r = -.45, p = .000$). Scores were positively associated with education ($r = .32, p = .000$) and negatively associated with age ($-.33, p = .000$).

Original reference to instrument: Marín, G., Sabogal, F., Marín, B. V., Otero-Sabogal, R., et al. (1987). Development of a short acculturation scale for Hispanics. Special Issue: Acculturation research. *Hispanic Journal of Behavioral Sciences*, 9(2), 183-205.

How to obtain a copy of the instrument: Available in the Marín et al., (1987) article.

For more information about the research: please contact Dr. Rashmi Gupta
 email: drrgupta@attbi.com