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Curiosity in Africans and Europeans

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compared was highly correlated, showing that the subjects responded to the tests in a similar manner. The functional equivalence of the tests could not be conclusively tested, however, in that the technique suggested by Poortinga, namely comparison of the correlation matrices in the two groups, requires larger groups of subjects than those used in this study, and furthermore that the tests being compared were fairly homogeneous in the two groups, whereas low correlations between most tests in this study were observed. The possibility of the functional equivalence of some of the tests for which significant correlations did emerge was discussed. The failure to provide a means of testing functional equivalence which is less dependent for its applicability on the actual results of tests can be considered a serious deficiency of the concept.

No significant difference in score on the individual tests, for which there were indications that they could be considered item equivalent (it was pointed out in Chapter II, that item, functional equivalence and score equivalence can never be proved, only disproved or confirmed) was found. In view of the assumption of no qualitative differences between the two cultural groups, and the similarity in education and interests in these two groups (discussed in Chapter IV), this result is not surprising. It can be argued that if no differences in preference for complexity, novelty, uncertainty, incongruity and self-ratings on curiosity were found between two cultural samples so highly similar in motivation and education, it is unlikely that

the greater differences which may be found on these variables at lower levels of literacy reflect more than the readily changeable, environmentally determined influences discussed in Chapter II.

In the absense of evidence of a unitary construct of curiosity, future research should focus on tests of the various collative properties in their own right. Of these the complexity tests are perhaps the most promising for future research. In view of the fact that no differences in complexity preference in the representational complexity test was found between the two cultural samples, it was suggested that the abstract nature of the stimulus material in the non-representational complexity test probably introduced a cultural bias, due to lack of familiarity of the African sample with this type of stimulus. It would be interesting to test whether repeated exposure to abstract and complex stimulation would increase the preferred complexity level on the non-representational complexity test in the African group, thus reducing the cultural bias.

Further research into the different mode of answering the curiosity questionnaire in the two groups might also be of value. Factor analysis of scores on the questionnaire for two larger groups of African and European subjects might provide important insights into differences in motivation in African and European subjects.

In conclusion, it must be emphasized that this study is essentially an exploratory one, and that any conclusions drawn must be regarded as tentative. Further research into

the tests discussed in this study, both with university students and at lower educational levels using an intra rather than inter-cultural approach could provide important insights into the effects of environment, education and culture on curiosity, novelty, complexity, etc. For developing African nations "curiosity" and associated concepts might well be related to adaptation to Western technological society.

APPENDIX A

N.I.P.R. QUESTIONNAIRE

Name: ..... Age: ..... Sex: .....

Instructions to Subjects.

The following questionnaire consists of pairs of statements, one presented on the left and one on the right-hand side of the page. The two statements are separated by 4 dashes, e.g. :

I like the thrills of watching car races ___ ___ ___ ___ I find car races unpleasant.

You are required to mark one of the dashes with a cross (X). Mark the left most dash if the left-hand statement is more true of you, or if it expresses your attitudes or opinions or feelings better than the right-hand statement. Mark the right most dash if the right-hand statement is more true of you, or if it expresses your attitudes or feelings far better than the left-hand statement, e.g. :

X ___ ___ ___

or :

___ ___ ___ X

In those cases in which you feel that the attitude or feeling expressed by the statements is more extreme than your own, or you have difficulty in deciding which statement is more true for you, mark the dash the second from the left, if you tend to agree more with the left-hand statement than with the right-hand statement; or mark the dash the second from the right if you tend to agree more with the right-hand statement than with the left-hand statement, e.g. :

___ X ___ ___

or :

___ ___ X ___

Please mark only one dash of each pair of statements.

1.	I would like a job that requires a lot of travelling.	___ ___ ___ ___	I would like to work in one place.
2.	I prefer to spend my weekends amusing myself at home.	___ ___ ___ ___	I prefer to spend my weekends away from home, visiting people and places of interest.
3.	I find the quickest and easiest route to a place and stick to it.	___ ___ ___ ___	I sometimes take different routes to a place I often go, just for the sake of variety.
4.	When I leave University, I would like to engage in research.	___ ___ ___ ___	When I leave University, I would prefer an administrative job.
5.	I am interested only in my studies.	___ ___ ___ ___	I am interested in many activities outside my studies.
6.	When I see a crowd at the scene of a road accident, I go and see what happened.	___ ___ ___ ___	When I see a crowd at the scene of a road accident, I don't go near the place, unless I have to pass by.
7.	I like to see a completed job, but I am not interested in watching it being done.	___ ___ ___ ___	I find it fascinating to watch workmen carrying out a job.
8.	When I go on holiday, I like to relax in one spot.	___ ___ ___ ___	I like a holiday where one is ... new things every day.
9.	I enjoy listening to the music of a few favourite composers.	___ ___ ___ ___	I enjoy listening to composers ... different styles.
10.	I would like to be one of the first visitors to the moon.	___ ___ ___ ___	I would not be interested in taking a trip into outer space.
11.	I like to order food with which I am familiar so as to avoid disappointment and unpleasantness.	___ ___ ___ ___	I like to try new foods that I have never tasted before.
12.	I ignore unusual noises which are disrupting to one's peace and work.	___ ___ ___ ___	When I hear an unusual noise, I try to discover what caused it.
13.	I would like to try some of the new drugs that produce hallucinations.	___ ___ ___ ___	I would not like to try any drug that might have strange effects on me.

14.	I prefer a guide when I am in a place I don't know well.	___ ___ ___ ___	I like to explore a strange town or section of town by myself, even if it means getting lost.
15.	If a colleague comes to work with a black eye, I would express sympathy and ask how it happened.	___ ___ ___ ___	If a colleague comes to work with a black eye, I would make no reference to it unless he does so himself.
16.	When travelling by bus, I like to look at my fellow passengers.	___ ___ ___ ___	I am not interested in watching other passengers on a bus.
17.	I feel that the essence of good art is in its clarity, symmetry of form and harmony of colours.	___ ___ ___ ___	I often find beauty in clashing colours and irregularity of form.
18.	I usually read those books that deal with topics in my sphere of interests.	___ ___ ___ ___	I like to read a great variety of books.
19.	I like the stimulation afforded by a good detective story.	___ ___ ___ ___	I do not particularly care for detective stories.
20.	I would be very interested in seeing a sample of the moon-rock brought to earth by the astronauts.	___ ___ ___ ___	I would not go out of my way to see a sample of the moon-rock brought to earth by the astronauts.
21.	I would like to follow a set career at University, so that I leave well-qualified in a particular profession.	___ ___ ___ ___	I would like to get a general education at University, before specializing in any field.
22.	Once I find a good job, I will stick to it.	___ ___ ___ ___	I would like to have a change of job every now and then, just for the sake of variety and interest.
23.	I feel that the most important goal in life is to find peace and happiness.	___ ___ ___ ___	I feel that the most important goal in life is to live life to the fullest and experience as much as one can.
24.	I like to read books about exploration.	___ ___ ___ ___	I like to read books about everyday people.
25.	I am usually very keen to see a new film or play.	___ ___ ___ ___	I am seldom interested in seeing a new film or play.

26.	I am hardly aware of the activities of my neighbours.	___	___	___	___	I take a great interest in the activities of my neighbours.
27.	I feel that "Variety is the spice of life".	___	___	___	___	In my opinion, one should not necessarily make a "change for change's sake".
28.	I feel that the facts about the private lives of the celebrities are often fascinating.	___	___	___	___	I feel that the facts about the private lives of the celebrities are often boring.
29.	I feel that as long as a gadget works, one should leave it alone.	___	___	___	___	I sometimes take a gadget apart just to see how it works.
30.	I tend to use the same products.	___	___	___	___	I tend to try new products.
31.	When I go on vacation, I like to break completely with my usual routine, by camping out for example.	___	___	___	___	When I go on vacation, I like to be comfortable and stay in a hotel or boarding house.
32.	I like to meet people whose ideas are different from my own.	___	___	___	___	I like to choose my acquaintances from people who have the same ideas as I have.
33.	When salesmen come to my door, I am seldom interested in what they have to say.	___	___	___	___	When salesmen come to my door, I am usually fairly interested in what they have to say.
34.	I do not enjoy having to adapt myself to new and unusual situations.	___	___	___	___	I enjoy having to adapt myself to new and unusual situations.
35.	On the night of an election or important sport match, I wait near the radio to hear the results as soon as they come in.	___	___	___	___	I can't be bothered to spend the night waiting for election or sporting results as one can hear them just as well the next morning.
36.	If visiting a place where they have a gambling casino, I would feel inclined to try my luck a little.	___	___	___	___	I avoid gambling at all times.
37.	I like to listen to new and unusual kinds of music.	___	___	___	___	I do not like irregularity and discord in music.
38.	I avoid things that may be dangerous.	___	___	___	___	I sometimes like to do things that involve taking risks.

39.	When I hear a good song on the radio, I listen to find out who the performing artist is.	___	___	___	___	I do not care who the performing artist is, so long as a song is good.
40.	I have only one main hobby.	___	___	___	___	I have a lot of different hobbies.
41.	I look in shop windows only when I want to buy something.	___	___	___	___	I enjoy looking at shop windows, even when I have no intention of buying.
42.	I like to try the new things I hear or read about for myself.	___	___	___	___	I feel that one can take most of the things one hears or reads about for granted.
43.	I get bored seeing the same old faces.	___	___	___	___	I like the comfortable familiarity of everyday friends.
44.	Once I have found a pleasant holiday spot, I return to it every year.	___	___	___	___	I like to go to a different place every year for a holiday.
45.	When I go on a trip, I like to plan my route and timetable carefully.	___	___	___	___	I would like to take off on a trip with no preplanned routes or timetables.
46.	I find auction sales very interesting.	___	___	___	___	I do not care for auction sales.
47.	I like to try new things just to see what will happen.	___	___	___	___	I like to think things over very carefully before trying something new.
48.	If a small fissure accidentally appeared in the wall of a nudist camp, I would under no circumstances peep through.	___	___	___	___	If a small fissure accidentally appeared in the wall of a nudist camp, I would definitely take a peep.

SELF RATING SCALE

Name : . . . . . Age : . . . . . Sex : . . . . .

Instructions to Subjects

You are asked to rate yourself on a series of descriptive scales. For example :

If, for example, you feel that you are extremely intuitive, place your cross (X) as follows :	RATIONAL	___	___	___	___	___	X	INTUITIVE
On the other hand, if you feel that you are extremely rational, place your X as follows :	RATIONAL	X	___	___	___	___	___	INTUITIVE
If you feel you are quite intuitive, but not extremely so, place your X as follows :	RATIONAL	___	___	___	___	X	___	INTUITIVE
If you feel you are quite rational, place your X as follows :	RATIONAL	___	X	___	___	___	___	INTUITIVE
If the right-hand adjective is only slightly more applicable to you than the left-hand adjective, place your X as follows :	RATIONAL	___	___	___	X	___	___	INTUITIVE
If, however, the left-hand adjective is slightly more applicable than the right-hand one, place your X as follows :	RATIONAL	___	___	X	___	___	___	INTUITIVE
If you consider yourself to be neutral with respect to a particular pair of adjectives (e.g. you feel that you are neither particularly rational nor particularly intuitive) mark the scale in the middle.	RATIONAL	___	___	___	X	___	___	INTUITIVE

MYSELF

ACTIVE	_ _ _ _ _ _	PASSIVE
QUICK	_ _ _ _ _ _	STEADY
POSITIVE	_ _ _ _ _ _	NEGATIVE
CURIOUS	_ _ _ _ _ _	INDIFFERENT
WITHDRAWN	_ _ _ _ _ _	OUTGOING
INTERESTED	_ _ _ _ _ _	UNINTERESTED
EXCITABLE	_ _ _ _ _ _	CALM
ATTENTIVE	_ _ _ _ _ _	INATTENTIVE
FREE	_ _ _ _ _ _	CONSTRAINED
UNRESPONSIVE	_ _ _ _ _ _	RESPONSIVE
ENTHUSIASTIC	_ _ _ _ _ _	INDIFFERENT
ENERGETIC	_ _ _ _ _ _	UNENERGETIC
INHIBITED	_ _ _ _ _ _	UNINHIBITED
PROGRESSIVE	_ _ _ _ _ _	CONSERVATIVE
IMPATIENT	_ _ _ _ _ _	PATIENT
MOBILE	_ _ _ _ _ _	QUIET
CONCENTRATING	_ _ _ _ _ _	DISTRACTIBLE
VARIABLE	_ _ _ _ _ _	STEADY
IMPULSIVE	_ _ _ _ _ _	CAUTIOUS
EXPANSIVE	_ _ _ _ _ _	RESERVED

RETIRING	_ _ _ _ _ _ _	SELF ASSERTIVE
ABSORBED	_ _ _ _ _ _ _	BORED
LIVELY	_ _ _ _ _ _ _	QUIET
ENTERPRISING	_ _ _ _ _ _ _	UNENTERPRISING
AGGRESSIVE	_ _ _ _ _ _ _	PEACEFUL
SILENT	_ _ _ _ _ _ _	NOISY
CHANGEABLE	_ _ _ _ _ _ _	STABLE
DOMINANT	_ _ _ _ _ _ _	SUBMISSIVE
ACTIVE	_ _ _ _ _ _ _	SEDATE

---oooOooo---

BIOGRAPHICAL QUESTIONNAIRE

Surname : .....

Initials : .....

Date of Birth : .....

Place of Birth : .....

Tribe : .....

Question 1.

In which places did you live before you came to this University?
(Indicate whether you consider these places to be rural or urban and which years of your life you spent in each of them.)

Place	Rural / Urban	Years of Age From - To.
.....	.....	.....
.....	.....	.....
.....	.....	.....
.....	.....	.....
.....	.....	.....
.....	.....	.....
.....	.....	.....
.....	.....	.....

Question 2.

A. Did your father always live in an urban area — Yes / No
a rural area — Yes / No
before you were born?

If your father did not always live in the same type of area, please indicate approximately the total number of years he lived in
an urban area ..... years
a rural area ..... years
before you were born.

B. Did your mother always live in an urban area — Yes / No
a rural area — Yes / No
before you were born?

If your mother did not always live in the same type of area, please indicate approximately the total number of years she lived in
an urban area ..... years
a rural area ..... years
before you were born.

Question 3.

What grade or standard of schooling did your father pass? .....

What grade or standard of schooling did your mother pass? .....

Question 4.

A. What was the occupation of your father when you were a pre-school child? .....

What is his occupation now? .....

B. What was the occupation of your mother when you were a pre-school child? .....

What is her occupation now? .....

Question 5.

A. Do you yourself or any member of your family own any land in a rural area or expect to inherit any land? Yes / No.

B. Did you undergo any traditional initiation ceremony? .....

What is your attitude towards the system of initiation (positive or negative)? .....

C. What is your attitude towards the system of lobola - are you in favour of it or not? .....

D. Do your father and your mother belong to the same tribe? Yes / No.

Did any of your father's or mother's brothers marry a wife who belonged to another tribe? Yes / No.

Question 6.

A. Where would you like to work after completion of your studies - in a rural area or in an urban area? .....

Question 8 (continued)

B. What, in your opinion, are the most important advantages of the African culture over the European culture?

C. What, in your opinion, are the most important advantages of the European culture over the African culture?

D. Describe briefly what you would like to do during your life that would make you happiest and most proud of yourself.

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