Chapter 3
Review of Existing Psychological Visual Assessments

ABSTRACT

Chapter 3 goes into detail describing a selection of the more popular existing psychological visual assessments in use. A description of each assessment is provided, what the use of the assessment is, an example of what a task would entail, and the available psychometric information about the test. This is followed by an evaluation of how culturally sensitive the instrument has shown to be, or might be expected to be. The purpose of this chapter is to review how historically visual assessments have been used to try to assess psychological constructs in a large-scale manner. Three categories of assessments are reviewed: standard assessments that are typically standardized measures, projective assessments, and next generation assessments.

PURPOSE

The purpose of this chapter is to review the more popular existing psychological visual assessments. To do so, we break this down into two categories: assessments that have been in long-time professional, or clinical use, and have been subjected to a greater degree of research, and newer types of visual assessments that are web-based, and have less research to substantiate their psychometric quality. Although newer assessments, these assessments

represent the type of visual assessments that are on the cutting edge of psychological assessment, and are more engaging and relevant. These types of assessment are similar to the vision of psychological assessments posited in this book, where images are replacing text to create more engaging assessments that appeal to a more technology-focused generation. The assessments are typically enjoyable to take, short, and still of high quality. As a result, more detail is provided for these limited assessments.

Since most visual assessments have been used in the field of psychology, our review of standardized visual assessments focuses on psychological assessments. The assessments reviewed here are in no way exhaustive, but highlight the most popular image-based assessments. For each assessment, the purpose of the instrument is provided, a description of the tasks is provided, and then the psychometric properties are evaluated. There are two major categories of assessments reviewed: standard assessments, and projective assessments. In that standard assessments, items are presented to the test taker, and there is an expected "correct" response. Projective assessments, on the other hand, are typically designed to be ambiguous in the prompts to elicit underlying psychological processes in the test taker. In this sense, the answers are typically more open-ended, and there is no "correct" answer, but there may be responses that align with particular psychological attributes.

STANDARD ASSESSMENTS

Raven's Progressive Matrices

The Raven's Progressive Matrices test is a non-verbal measure of ability of clear-thinking skills, efficient problems solving, abstract reasoning, and ability to learn (Domino & Domino, 2006). It is used typically in employment practices to hire professionals and managers. There are two versions of the test: a standard version that is typically used at the entry-level positions, as well as mid-level positions, and an advanced version that is more commonly used for senior management positions and high level positions ((Domino & Domino, 2006). Among the benefits of the assessment are that they are self-administered, and they are easy to score. Since there is no text to read, the assessment is appealing for use with non-verbal examinees, and can be used regardless of the primary language of the examinee.

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