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Systematic review

Assessing the Equivalence of Computerized and Conventional Versions of Psychological Tests

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Abstract

Introduction. This paper (a) discusses the theoretical and methodological evidence for the equivalence of computerized and conventional versions of psychological tests, (b) analyzes the studies investigating psychometric parameters of computerized versions of conventional tests, and (c) examines contradictions in approaches to assessing the equivalence of the two test forms. This paper represents a first effort in structuring the main problems in establishing the equivalence of paper-and-pencil and computer-based testing, as well as in finding ways and means to overcome them. Much attention is devoted to minimal and sufficient mathematical and statistical tools for assessing the equivalence of the two test forms.

Theoretical Basis. The main problems associated with assessing the equivalence of computerized and conventional tests include the following: (a) the level of cultural and informational competence of respondents, (b) anxiety, (c) social environment, (d) motivation for testing, (e) difficulties in creating the same conditions for paper-and-pencil and computer-based testing (L. N. Babanin, Y. P. Chua, M. Russell, P. Květon et al.). Researchers most often choose the following procedures for assessing the equivalence of the two versions of psychological tests: (a) comparison of the main statistical parameters (mean values, variances, etc.) and (b) assessment of construct validity and reliability of the computer-based versions of psychological tests.

Results and Discussion. The analysis of research methodology for assessing the equivalence of computerized and conventional versions of psychological tests focuses on a variety of approaches to (a) the use of mathematical and statistical methods for assessing psychometric parameters of computer-based versions of conventional tests, (b) the choice of research design, (c) considering specific characteristics of the situation of computer-based testing. It is necessary to formulate specific and structured requirements for the procedure for assessing the equivalence of computerized and conventional versions of psychological tests. The author suggests recommendations for the main sections of such requirements related to (a) the procedure for conducting empirical research, (b) mathematical and statistical methods, and (c) control of the factors specific to computer-based testing that may have impact on the results of equivalence assessment.

Keywords

psychological tests, psychometric parameters, equivalence of tests, mathematical and statistical methods, computerization of tests, computer-based testing, computer psychodiagnostics, research methodology, validity, test reliability

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Highlights

▶ The lack of the standardized assessment of psychometric equivalence of paper-and-pencil and computer-based tests is a methodological issue.

▶ The standardized procedure for assessing the equivalence of paper-and-pencil and computerbased tests should impose uniform requirements for research design, as well as for methods of mathematical and statistical data processing.

> To consider specific factors of a computer-based testing situation, researchers are advised to use observation cards or questionnaires for identifying the level of computer literacy in respondents, their motivation and attitudes towards computer-based psychodiagnostics.

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Introduction

The increased pace of life, large amount of information, and a wide range of technical possibilities dictate the need for time savings during psychological research. As a result, computer-based testing replaces paper-and-pencil (conventional) formats of psychological tests, which makes it possible to remotely collect information and to automate the processing of data. Various services, including Google forms, online survey services, and specialized programs are used for that purpose. In most cases the replacement of a paper-and-pencil format by a computer-based one is reduced to a simple action – the text of a questionnaire (or another kind of stimulus materials) is presented in an electronic format and sent to all the respondents. In a similar way, the norms used for interpreting paper-and-pencil tests are applied to their computer-based counterparts.

Researches have investigated the issues of the equivalence of computer-based and conventional tests for a long time. Mazzeo, Druesne, Raffeld, Checketts, & Muhlstein (1992) argue that special studies of the comparability of indicators of these formats need to be conducted. Previous studies in this field introduced a number of fundamental contradictions regarding psychometric parameters that should be assessed. Hypothetically, the validity of the two test forms will be equivalent, if the two test forms are proved to be equivalent (George, Lankford, & Wilson, 1992; Ford, Vitelli, & Stuckless, 1996). However, L. M. Honaker made the point that validity indices from a paper-and-pencil version cannot be automatically transferred to a computer-based one (Honaker, 1988). Such cases require additional validity assessments (Russell, Goldberg, & O'connor, 2003). Anastasi and Urbina (2009, p. 93) agree with him saying, '... the reliability and validity of the test can vary depending on the format of presentation'. Baturin and Melnikova (2011a, 2011b) note that the procedure for creating a computer-based version of a conventional test is not a simple process of copying stimulus materials from one format to another, but its *modification*, which implies the process of its processing. A number of other scholars share this opinion, saying 'the computer-based version is a completely independent test, which use is possible only after

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the assessment of group norms and other psychometric characteristics' (Vasserman, lovlev, & Chervinskaya, 2010, p. 23). Moreover, some researchers suggest that the coincidence of scores from paper-and-pencil and computer-based testing does not mean that both form measure the same psychological construct, as supported by a number of personality tests (Meade, Michels, & Lautenschlager, 2004). Despite the fact that this issue has drawn attention at the end of the 20th century, not all researchers, as we will show, carry out a complete assessment of the psychometric parameters of computer-based tests. The mathematical and statistical methods for analyzing their equivalence are quite diverse. The choice of these methods is often not explained by authors.

Diverse opinions regarding psychometric parameters of computerized tests that require verification are partly explained by the lack of clear standardized instructions for the procedure for establishing the equivalence between paper-and-pencil and computer-based versions of psychological tests. Certain recommendations regarding the development of psychodiagnostic tools make it possible to structure the information accumulated in this area and facilitate the work of psychologists and other specialists in this field. A series of articles by Baturin and Melnikova (2009–2011); American Educational Research Association, American Psychological Association, & National Council on Measurement in Education (1999) (AERA, APA, NCME) seem to be a good example. Assessing the equivalence of paper-and-pencil and computerized tests is a specific area of psychodiagnostics, which requires certainty and standards.

Obviously, the computerization of paper-and-pencil tests will be a massive process in the future. At the same time, researchers and scholars are growing concerned about the validity of computer-based versions of paper-and-pencil tests. Thus, there is a need to standardize and control the process of converting paper-and-pencil tests to computerized formats.

This paper discusses the experience of assessing psychometric parameters of computerized versions of conventional psychological tests, concentrates on the minimum set of mathematical and statistical methods for assessing the equivalence of the two test form, and suggests the need to formalize the procedure for establishing specific conditions of computer-based testing (directly during the assessment of equivalence) and their subsequent accounting when interpreting the results.

Theoretical Basis

Researchers and scholars actively discuss the influence of various factors on the process and procedure for computer-based testing. Pointing to factors that can affect the equivalence of the two test forms (experience with various computer-based applications, anxiety, social environment, etc.) Babanin (2010) concludes that the level of general cultural and information competence (level of mastering information technology) is the main one. However, the computer literacy of respondents still does not solve the problem of differences in data when assessing the equivalence of computer-based and paper-and-pencil testing (Russell et al., 2003). When converting paper-and-pencil tests to computer-based formats, the conditions for computerized tests should fully correspond to those for their paper-and-pencil counterparts (time for presenting stimulus materials, possibility of correcting answers, strict/non-strict order of answers, etc.). This is one way to increase the equivalence of these formats.

The choice of mathematical and statistical data analysis methods is the next point that requires special attention. What measures can be considered necessary and sufficient to verify the psychometric equivalence of computerized and paper-and-pencil testing?

The Guidelines for Computer-based Tests and Interpretations (APA, 1986) contains the main statistical methods and indicators that determine the psychometric equivalence of computer-based and conventional test forms, including descriptive statistics (mean values, variances, distributions, and rank orders), construct validity, and reliability. Nevertheless, when assessing equivalence the authors do not always observe all these points and use additional types of analysis in certain cases (i.e. Bartram, 1994; van de Looij-Jansen, Goldschmeding, & Jan de Wilde, 2006; Květon, Jelínek , Vobořil, & Klimusová, 2007; Chua, 2012). So what determines the choice of methods for assessing psychometric characteristics of computer-based versions of conventional psychological tests? What is the minimum list of methods that are sufficient to prove the equivalence of paper-and-pencil and computer-based test formats, or the independence of the computer-based format as a tool?

Table 1 provides an overview of studies of the equivalence of computer-based and paper-andpencil testing over the past 20 years. The analysis criteria were as follows: (a) research design, (b) use of certain statistical methods to process the results, (c) explanations for their choice or purposes of their use, and (d) specific characteristics of computer-based testing procedure (observation of respondents during computer-based testing, additional questionnaires to identify the attitudes of study participants to computer-based testing if it is carried out via the Internet, etc.).

Results and Discussion

As can be seen from Table 1, when comparing computer-based and paper-and-pencil formats of the same test, researchers consider different aspects. By accepting the fact that a computer-based test is valid, some of them only assess its reliability. The others consider it sufficient to carry out correlation analysis and comparison of means to prove equivalence. Still others prefer to immediately assess all the psychometric parameters of a computer-based test form. Can the choice of statistical methods depend on specific characteristics of stimulus materials? It seems that if the technique consists of questions (statements) and answer options (like a questionnaire), then converting a paper-and-pencil test to a computer-based format will not entail serious changes. Some researchers have come to this conclusion. Thus, reliability of multiscale tests is preserved when they were converted from a paper-and-pencil form to a computerized one (Romek & Satin, 2000). On the other hand, if stimulus materials represent a creative task, or the technique involves working with pictures, graphic symbols, and is time-limited, etc. (i.e. some cognitive tests), psychometric parameters of computer-based formats of such tests require a more responsible processing. The table shows that this logic does not always underlie the choice of statistical methods for assessing the equivalence of the two test form.

Moreover, there is a variety of approaches to research design when assessing the equivalence of the two test form (computer-based and conventional). Thus, Romek and Satin (2000), van de Looij-Jansen et al. (2006) use intergroup comparisons (when one group takes only a paper-and-pencil test and another – only a computer-based one) (see also Andersson, Kaldo-Sandström, Ström, & Strömgren, 2003; Vecchione, Alessandri, & Barbaranelli, 2012). Ermakov (2016) and Kibalchenko, Ustinov, & Shapovalov (2004) use intragroup comparisons, when representatives of the same group take both paper-and-pencil and computer-based tests after a certain period of time (also see Hays & Mccallum, 2005). Both intergroup and intragroup comparisons are also used (Květon et al., 2007; Kononova & Nakhaeva, 2013). Each of the assessment options described above has its advantages and disadvantages.

sis of existing	<u>The main</u> <u>conclusions</u> <u>concerning</u> <u>the</u> <u>equivalence</u> of the two test forms	Psychometric characteristics of tests are preserved; reliability is not reduced High-level representative reliability of computer- based versions; computer- based versions can be used instead of paper-and-	pencil ones
tic tests: An analy:	<u>The proce-</u> dure for consi- dering <u>specific</u> characteristics of computer- based testing. [observation or survey]	Data on the procedure for considering specific characteristics of a situation of computer- based testing are not provided Data on the provided provided specific characteristics of a situation of computer- based testing specific characteristics of a situation of computer- based testing	
) psychodiagnos	<u>Aim of</u> mathe- matical <u>statistical</u> analysis	Comparing reliability; assessing the difference between the norms Assessing test-retest reliability	
Table 1 Comparing computer-based and paper-and-pencil (conventional) psychodiagnostic tests: An analysis of existing studies	<u>Mathematical</u> and <u>statistical</u> data processing methods	Comparing the factorial structures of the test; reliability index (Cronbach's a); comparing means and variances; test- retest reliability Spearman correlation coefficient	
d paper-and-pe	<u>Research</u> design**	Intergroup comparison Remotely (via the Internet); in the presence of a specialist a specialist comparison	
mputer-based an	<u>Psycho-</u> diagnostic <u>test, brief</u> <u>description</u> of stimulus materials*	Eysenck Perso- nality Questi- onnaire (Q; TUL; VERB; PERS) Self-confidence Test (Q; TUL; VERB; PERS) Assessment of Interests in Primary School Children (Q; TUL; VERB; PERS) Map of Giftedness (Q; TUL; VERB; PERS)	
Table 1 Comparing cor studies	Author, year	V. G. Romek, D. K. Satin, 2000 I. A. Kibal'- chenko et al., 2004	

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sis of existing	<u>The main</u> <u>conclusions</u> <u>concerning</u> <u>the</u> <u>equivalence</u> <u>of the two test</u> <u>forms</u>	Paper-and- pencil and computer- based versions are equivalent	The majority of test scores have no significant differences
tic tests: An analy	<u>The proce-</u> dure for consi- dering specific characteristics of computer- based testing (observation or survey)	Data on specific characteristics of a situation of computer- based testing are not provided	Data on specific characteristics of a situation of computer- based testing are not provided
) psychodiagnos	Aim of <u>mathe-</u> <u>matical</u> <u>statistical</u> analysis	Not provided	Comparing the results of paper-and- pencil and computer- based tests
and paper-and-pencil (conventional) psychodiagnostic tests: An analysis of existing	<u>Mathematical</u> and statistical data processing methods	Ranking of average means of questionnaire scales in each group; correlation analysis	Two-way analysis of covariance (ANCOVAs)
nd paper-and-pe	<u>Research</u> design**	Intragroup and intergroup comparison	Intergroup comparison; in the presence of a teacher
Table 1 Comparing computer-based ar studies	<u>Psycho-</u> diagnostic <u>test, brief</u> description of stimulus materials*	Neurotic Personality Questionnaire (Q; TUL; VERB; PERS)	Youth Health Monitor Rotterdam, YMR (Q; TUL; VERB; PERS)
Table 1 Comparing co studies	Author, year	B. V. Iovlev et al., 2006 (Iovlev, Novozhilova, Chervinskaya, & Shchelkova, 2006)	P. M. van de Looij-Jansen et al., 2006

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sis of existing	<u>The main</u> <u>conclusions</u> <u>concerning</u> . <u>the</u> <u>equivalence</u> <u>of the two test</u> <u>forms</u>	Paper-and- pencil and computer- based tests substantially differ from each other	Test forms are not equivalent. Specific effects of the form and order of testing were found to affect test results
tic tests: An analy	<u>The proce-</u> dure for consi- dering specific characteristics of computer- based testing (observation or survey)	To consider the influence of conditions different designs of computer- based tests were used	Data on specific characteristics of a situation of computer- based testing are not provided
) psychodiagnos	Aim of mathe- matical statistical analysis	Comparing the results of paper-and- pencil and computer- based tests; comparing reliability	Assessing the influence of testing order (C-P; P-C; P-P; C-C)*** and its form on the results; assessing reliability
and paper-and-pencil (conventional) psychodiagnostic tests: An analysis of existing	<u>Mathematical</u> and statistical data processing methods	One-way analysis of variance; Tukey test for pairwise comparisons; Cronbach's a	General Linear Model (GLM); Test of Between- Subjects Effects from the Multi- variate GLM; Tukey test for pairwise comparisons; correlation analysis
d paper-and-pe	<u>Research</u> design**	Intergroup comparison	Intragroup and intergroup comparison; in the presence of a specialist
Table 1 Comparing computer-based an studies	<u>Psycho-</u> diagnostic test, brief description of stimulus materials*	Bourdon Test (GS; TL; NVERB; COG)	Test of Concen- tration of Atten- tion, TCA (GS; TL; NVERB; COG)
Table 1 Comparing co studies	Author, year	P. Květon et al., 2007	P. Květon et al., 2007

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sis of existing	<u>The main</u> <u>conclusions</u> <u>concerning</u> <u>the</u> <u>equivalence</u> of the two test forms	High validity of both test forms; the paper-and- pencil version turned out to be more sensitive to testing time and motivation for testing
tic tests: An analy	<u>The proce-</u> <u>dure for consi-</u> <u>dering specific</u> <u>characteristics</u> <u>of computer-</u> <u>based testing</u> (observation or survey)	Data on specific characteristics of a situation of computer- based testing are not provided
l psychodiagnost	<u>Aim of</u> mathe- matical statistical analysis	Impact of the effect of testing and the test form on results; test-retest reliability; comparing reliability
and paper-and-pencil (conventional) psychodiagnostic tests: An analysis of existing	<u>Mathematical</u> and <u>statistical</u> data processing methods	Independent samples t-test; split-plot ANOVA; test- retest reliability (Pearson product moment product moment coefficients); Cronbach's a
nd paper-and-pe	<u>Research</u> design**	Intragroup and intergroup comparison
Table 1 Comparing computer-based ar studies	<u>Psycho-</u> <u>diagnostic</u> <u>test, brief</u> <u>description</u> <u>of stimulus</u> <u>materials*</u>	Yanpiaw Creative- Critical Styles test, YBRAINS (Q; TUL; VERB; COG)
Table 1 Comparing co studies	Author, year	Y. P. Chua, 2012

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Table 1 Comparing co studies	mputer-based and	d paper-and-pe	Table 1 Comparing computer-based and paper-and-pencil (conventional) psychodiagnostic tests: An analysis of existing studies	psychodiagnos	tic tests: An analy	sis of existing
<u>Author, year</u>	Psycho- diagnostic test, brief description of stimulus materials*	<u>Research</u> design**	<u>Mathematical</u> and statistical data processing methods	<u>Aim of</u> mathe- <u>statistical</u> analysis	<u>The proce-</u> dure for consi- dering specific characteristics of computer- based testing (observation or survey)	<u>The main</u> <u>conclusions</u> <u>concerning</u> <u>the</u> <u>equivalence</u> <u>of the two test</u> <u>forms</u>
P. Žitný et al., 2012 (Žitný, Halama, Jelínek, & Květon, 2012)	Test of Intellect Potential, TIP (GS; TL; NVERB; COG) Vienna Matrices Test (GS; TL; NVERB; COG)	Intragroup and intergroup comparison	Correlation analysis; Fisher z-transformation; Cohen's d effect size on the basis of independent samples t-test	Comparing means of test scores depending on gender and place of residence; comparing criterion and construct validity	Data on specific characteristics of a situation of computer- based testing are not provided	Construct validity of all test forms is proved; the results of the computer- based version of the test are comparable to those of a conventional one
V. N. Kono- nova, I. V. Nakha- eva, 2013	Color Mirror (PM; MT; TUL; NVERB; PERS)	Intergroup and intragroup comparison; in the presence of a specialist	Phi correlation coefficient, chi-square; correlation analysis	Analysis of the ratio of test scores; test-retest reliability	Individual interaction with a psychologist during testing	Testing forms are not fully equivalent

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sis of existing	<u>The main</u> <u>conclusions</u> <u>concerning</u> <u>the</u> <u>equivalence</u> <u>of the two test</u> <u>forms</u>	Psychometric reliability and validity of the computer- based version is proved	Computer- based version of the test can be considered a counterpart of its paper- and-pencil version
tic tests: An analy	<u>The proce-</u> dure for consi- dering specific characteristics of computer- based testing (observation or survey)	Data on specific characteristics of a situation of computer- based testing are not provided	Data on specific characteristics of a situation of computer- based testing are not provided
) psychodiagnos	<u>Aim of</u> mathe- matical statistical analysis	Assessing reliability; comparing the results in subsamples by gender; assessing the validity of the computer- based version	Assessing test-retest reliability; assessing differences between groups
and paper-and-pencil (conventional) psychodiagnostic tests: An analysis of existing	<u>Mathematical</u> and <u>statistical</u> data processing methods	Cronbach's a; Student's t-test; Mann–Whitney U test; Levene's test of equality of variances; correlation analysis	Correlation coefficient; Student's t-test
d paper-and-pe	<u>Research</u> design**	Intergroup comparison; in the presence of a psychologist	Intragroup comparison
nputer-based an	<u>Psycho-</u> diagnostic <u>test, brief</u> <u>description</u> <u>of stimulus</u> <u>materials*</u>	Schwartz Value Inventory, SVI (Q; TUL; VERB; PERS)	Raven's Standard Progressive Matrices Plus, SPM+ (GS; TL; NVERB; COG)
Table 1 Comparing computer-based studies	Author, year	O. V. Mitina, V. V. Sorokina, 2015 (Mitina & Sorokina, 2015)	S. S. Ermakov, 2016

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Table 1 Comparing cc	Table 1 Comparing computer-based an	d paper-and-pe	and paper-and-pencil (conventional) psychodiagnostic tests: An analysis of existing	psychodiagnos	tic tests: An analy	sis of existing
studies						
Author, year	Psycho- diagnostic test, brief description of stimulus materials*	<u>Research</u> design**	<u>Mathematical</u> and <u>statistical</u> data processing methods	<u>Aim of</u> <u>mathe-</u> <u>matical</u> <u>statistical</u> anal <u>ysis</u>	<u>The proce-</u> dure for consi- dering specific characteristics of computer- based testing (observation or survey)	<u>The main</u> <u>conclusions</u> <u>concerning</u> <u>the</u> <u>equivalence</u> of the two test forms
K. V. Sugo- nyaev et al., 2018	SIT-30 test, a shortened and modified version of the Short Indicative Test (Q; GS; TL; VERB; NVERB; COG)	Intergroup comparison; Internet version; in the presence of a specialist (both tests)	Correlation and factorial analysis, comparing of means, measures of variability, and instantaneous reliability; comparing item discrimination and difficulty coefficients, their factor loadings on the general factor	Comparing testing results from a controlled and uncontrolled Internet formats.	Data on specific characteristics of a situation of computer- based testing are not provided	Psychometric characteristics of test performance via the internet are not inferior to those calculated under controlled testing
Note: * Q - qu technique; TL cognitive chai ** research de;	Note: * Q - questionnaire, GS - graphic symbols, signs, fig technique; TL - time-limited testing; TUL - time-unlimited to cognitive characteristics; PERS - personal characteristics; * research design by the following parameters: intragrou	graphic symbols, ng; TUL – time-ur personal charac ng parameters: ii	Note: * Q – questionnaire, GS – graphic symbols, signs, figures; PM – projective technique; MT – manipulation technique; TL – time-limited testing; TUL – time-unlimited testing; VERB – verbal test; NVERB – non-verbal test; COG – cognitive characteristics; PERS – personal characteristics; ** research design by the following parameters: intragroup/intergroup comparison; remote testing/in the presence of	projective techr 8 – verbal test; N p comparison; r	iique; MT – manip IVERB – non-verbc emote testing/in i	oulation al test; COG – the presence of
siBololioved b	ter-based version c	of the technique	we provide a first a more provides into a data ,	ncil version of th	e technique.	

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Moreover, in our opinion, intragroup comparisons make it possible to control the influence of a respondent's personality when he/she takes both paper-and-pencil and computer-based tests. This kind of influence can manifest itself in an intergroup design situation, when the difference in results can be explained not by the test form but by differences in personal characteristics of two groups of respondents (i.e. if one group comprises more anxious individual participants than another).

When taking computer-based tests additional factors also need to be considered for a thorough assessment of equivalence (Chua, 2012). In this regard, the table included such a criterion for analyzing the content of articles as 'the procedure for taking into account specific characteristics of computer-based testing (observation or survey)'. Even a relatively minor modification in a computer-based test design (i.e. changing a color scheme) can substantially affect the results (Květon et al., 2007). It is also believed that compared to paper-and-pencil tests, taking the computer-based ones is associated with a guite different cognitive load, which leads to 'stratification of the sample, when the worst show even worse results and the best demonstrate even better results' (Ermakov, 2016, p. 203). Moreover, the pre-test and post-test designs may lead to the effect of testing (the experience of passing the pre-test affects the results of the post-test); overlooking this fact researchers may conclude that external conditions affected the results of the post-test (i.e. a computer, if it was the second). To avoid incorrect conclusions related to the effect of testing, Chua (2012) suggested R. L. Solomon's experimental plan for four randomized groups (for details see Solomon, 1949; Campbell & Stanley, 1963; et al.). Another problem associated with taking computer-based tests remotely (via the Internet) is falsification of the results (Sugonyaev, Radchenko, & Sokolov, 2018). It is recommended to recheck such results under controlled conditions (The International Testing Commission, 2006).

A more thorough research design – choosing a number of respondent groups, the sequence of testing series, etc. – requires consideration of all these points. We believe that it will be useful to organize observation of respondents' behaviors when they take computer-based tests. This will help to eliminate the results of respondents demonstrating a high level of anxiety during testing, a low level of motivation or their incompetence when interacting with computer interface (information incompetence). Such an observation can help modify the procedure for computer-based testing or the presentation of stimulus material, if most respondents show difficulties during it. All this may be organized at the stage of programming a computer-based version of a conventional test in order to exclude the influence of some factors on the results of equivalence of its two forms.

Considering the problem of psychometric properties of computer-based versions of conventional tests, K. V. Sugonyaev et al. provides a specific procedure for statistical analysis; we believe that it may help establish the equivalence of the two test forms. The researchers argue that comparing 'measures of central tendency, variability, and simultaneous reliability of integral test scores' (Sugonyaev et al., 2018, p. 8) is insufficient for assessing the comparability of test results. The analysis of test performance at the item level – similarity/difference in the 'distribution of coefficients of item difficulty and discrimination, as well as in the patterns of item factor loadings on the general factor' (Sugonyaev et al., 2018, p. 18) – may be a method designed to prove the equivalence of the two test form. Thus, the authors attempted to explain and prove the necessary minimum of statistical methods for assessing the equivalence between the computerized and paper-and-pencil tests. In the remaining articles (Table 1), as a rule, the researchers do not explain the choice of methods of mathematical and statistical analysis (as

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well as the research design (intergroup/intragroup)) from the point of view of their sufficiency for assessing equivalence. And yet, as the conditions for taking a computer-based test differ from those for a paper-and-pencil one, and taking into account all the factors listed above that can influence the performance of a computer-based test, we suggest not abandoning the idea of assessing the validity and reliability of computerized versions of conventional tests.

The analysis of studies related to assessing the equivalence of computer-based and pencil-andpaper tests allows us to conclude that most of them are published by foreign experts. Despite numerous programs for computer-based psychodiagnostics (Mel'nichuk & Sergeev, n.d.; Budko, Mishin, & Tregubova, 2007), few Russian studies address the procedure for assessing psychometric properties of computer-based versions of conventional tests. To make matters worse, a small number of articles examine the quality of assessing the equivalence of computerized versions and their conventional paper-and-pencil counterparts.

Conclusion

Without a doubt, psychometric parameters of computer-based versions of conventional tests should be assessed. Therefore, distinct requirements for the procedure for such assessments and standardized instructions for specialists involved in programming computer-based versions of conventional tests represent an important aspect of research.

Obviously, brief instructions presented in the Guidelines for Computer-based Tests and Interpretations (APA, 1986), or the detailed however inconcrete ones from Standards for educational and psychological testing (American Educational Research Association, American Psychological Association, & National Council on Measurement in Education, 1999) are insufficient.

We assume that these recommendations should contain distinct instructions for each of the following sections:

- 1. Research design requirements necessary for a thorough assessment of the equivalence of paper-and-pencil and computer-based versions of psychodiagnostic tests (number of groups, minimum sample size, sequence of various test forms, time interval between repeated measurements, methods for assessing construct validity, etc.).
- 2. The list of necessary and sufficient methods of mathematical and statistical data processing that help establish the equivalence between paper-and-pencil and computer-based tests.
- 3. Description of factors that may affect the results of computer-based and paper-and-pencil tests and recommendations for certain conditions for assessing equivalence. The methods to ensure these factors include observation cards for respondents' behaviors during testing and standardized questionnaires that assess motivation, attitudes towards computer diagnostics, the level of computer literacy, etc. (Testing Motivation Questionnaire (Chua, 2012), Computer Familiarity Questionnaire (Mazzeo et al., 1992)). This will help eliminate the influence of additional variables on the test results and obtain more reliable results when assessing the equivalence of conventional and computer-based psychodiagnostic tests.

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