A new powerful way of conceptualizing coping behavior in stressful life events is the Strategic Approach to Coping Scale (SACS by Hobfoll, Dunahoo & Monnier, 1994; Hobfoll, 1998). This instrument emerged from a theory based multiaxial model of coping consisting of three axes: active-passive, prosocial-antisocial and direct-indirect. The model moves beyond the traditional individua-listic perspective because it (1) takes into account that many stressors have an interpersonal component, (2) individual coping efforts can have consequences on the social climate, and (3) a coping action often requires the interaction with others (Hobfoll, 1998). Furthermore, differential findings in gender specific tasks are expected.

The SACS has been adapted to the Japanese language and this study presents cross-sectional data from a validation study on the dispositional form of the Japanese SACS-D. The aim of the study was to validate the Japanese adaptation and to improve the multi-axial model for Japanese samples including its hypothesis on gender-related differences. The study refers to data from a sample of students and provides information regarding psychometric quality of the scale such as internal consistency and discriminant validity.

**RESEARCH QUESTION**

- Do the Japanese scale data support those of the original U.S. version?
- Are there gender differences in the German sample?
- Are there potential cultural distinctions?

**SAMPLE**

The sample consisted of 79 highschool students. Participants were enrolled in school classes and received no credit for participation.

- 50% female students
- 40% male students
- Mean age 16 years (± 1 year)

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### Structure of the American and Japanese versions of the Strategic Approach to Coping Scale

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>I</th>
<th>II</th>
<th>III</th>
<th>I</th>
<th>II</th>
<th>III</th>
<th>IV</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>active-antisocial</td>
<td>active-prosocial</td>
<td>active-passive</td>
<td>active-antisocial</td>
<td>passive</td>
<td>prosocial</td>
<td>directness</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>aggressive action</td>
<td>antisocial action</td>
<td>instinctive action</td>
<td>assertive action</td>
<td>avoidance</td>
<td>support seeking</td>
<td>indirect action</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>social joining</td>
<td>support seeking</td>
<td>cautious action</td>
<td>instinctive action</td>
<td>aggressive action</td>
<td>antisocial action</td>
<td>assertive action</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>26.5% of variance</td>
<td>21.6% of variance</td>
<td>18.5% of variance</td>
<td>38.3% of variance</td>
<td>17.0% of variance</td>
<td>15.2% of variance</td>
<td>10.3% of variance</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>total % of variance: 66.6%</td>
<td>total % of variance: 80.5%</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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A Japanese version of the SACS was created that corresponds in most parts to the American version. The Japanese scale showed a satisfactory internal consistency. The reliability is for all but one subscale of reasonable magnitude, ranging from .60 to .84. The interrelations between the subscales of the Japanese version (JSACS-D) were low to moderate and can be taken as indicators for discriminant validity. The structure of the American and Japanese version of the SACS are comparable as principal component analysis showed. Cluster analyses revealed gender related coping clusters.

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**PRELIMINARY RESULTS OF THE JAPANESE ADAPTATION TO THE STRATEGIC APPROACH TO COPING SCALE**

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### Identified clusters within the multiaxial model of coping for

**men**

- **prosocial**
- **direct**
- **indirect**
- **assertive**
- **passive**
- **aggressive**

**women**

- **prosocial**
- **direct**
- **indirect**
- **assertive**
- **passive**
- **aggressive**