FACTOR STRUCTURE OF THE CHINESE VERSION
OF THE WAIS-R FOR CHINESE ADULTS
IN THE LOWEST PERCENTILES OF IQ

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The Chinese version of the WAIS-R was factor analyzed for a sample of 130 Chinese adults in Hong Kong who had low intellectual abilities. All subtests except the Vocabulary subtest were included for analyses. Results supported a three-factor solution composed of Verbal Comprehension, Perceptual Organization, and Memory/Freedom from Distractibility Factors, as well as a two-factor solution of classic Verbal–Perceptual dichotomy. Comparison of present two- and three-factor structure with individuals having low or normal IQ in Mainland China and North America revealed satisfactory congruence coefficients. However, our general factor accounted for only a small portion of common and total variance (28.5% and 35.3% respectively). Error variances of our subtests were large when compared to normative samples of Mainland China and US. Results were discussed in terms of clinical interpretation of the WAIS-R subtests, danger of using short-forms to assess IQ and need for normative studies of WAIS-R in Chinese-speaking countries. © 1996 John Wiley & Sons, Inc.

Recent publications of the Mainland Chinese version of the Wechsler Adult Intelligence Scale (WAIS-RC; Dai, Gong, & Zhong, 1990; Dai, Ryan, Paolo, & Harrington, 1991; Gong, 1989; Ryan, Dai, Paolo, & Harrington, 1992) have stimulated psychologists in Hong Kong to examine their own use of the Wechsler Scales for adults (WAIS and WAIS-R). Despite their frequent use in Hong Kong (Tsoi & Sundberg, 1989), no attempts were made to establish local norms or determine the reliability and validity of the Chinese versions of the Wechsler Scales. Moreover, little attention has been paid to the possible impact of local adaptation on the clinical interpretation of the results.

The Chinese version of the WAIS-R was prepared by the research subcommittee of the Division of Clinical Psychology of the Hong Kong Psychological Society in 1989. It represented an effort of local practicing psychologists to maintain consistency in the administration and scoring of the Scale. Subtests of the original English version were either directly translated or substituted by modified items to suit the local context, and the Vocabulary subtest is typically omitted from the Scale (Hong Kong Psychological Society, 1989). A mixed sample of 135 normal functioning adults, aged from 16 to 74 years old, were recruited to establish item order of the subtests where appropriate. This version of WAIS-R has since become the standard test for the assessment of adult intelligence in Hong Kong. The Mainland Chinese version of the WAIS (WAIS-RC) has not been used in the local setting because it is not available publicly outside Mainland China and adopts the old and outdated version of the Wechsler scale. In addition, with the two regions’ different educational, political, and

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