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Introduction

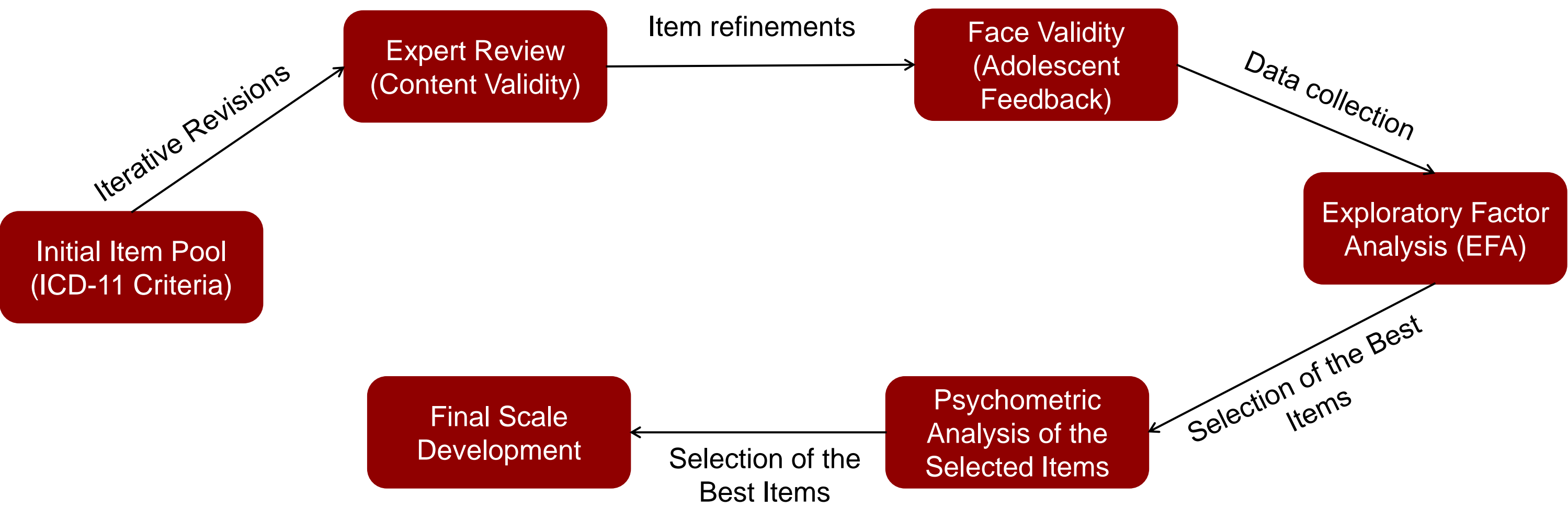
Adolescence is a critical period for emotional and behavioral development. If unaddressed, oppositional defiant and dissocial behaviors can lead to long-term mental health challenges. Early identification is essential for timely intervention. However, existing assessment tools in Latvia lack cultural adaptation and alignment with ICD-11, limiting their effectiveness. This study aims to develop and validate a psychometrically robust, culturally adapted tool to assess these behaviors in Latvian adolescents.

Aim of the project

This study, conducted within the framework of the National Research Program project "Development of a new computer-based assessment method for measuring and monitoring adolescent mental health outcomes in post-COVID pandemic conditions" (No. 1-PB-2/8/2024), aims to develop and validate the Oppositional Defiant and Dissocial Behaviour Scales for Latvian adolescents. These scales are designed to provide a psychometrically robust, culturally adapted instrument for assessing oppositional and dissocial behaviors, thereby contributing to improved screening and intervention strategies.

Materials and methods

An initial item pool was developed based on ICD-11 criteria for oppositional defiant (6C90) and conduct-dissocial disorder (6C91). Content validity was assessed through an iterative process in which six experts rated item relevance and clarity using a Likert scale, leading to refinements and re-evaluation, culminating in the calculation of the Content Validity Index (CVI). Face validity was evaluated by 267 adolescents (aged 13–19), who assessed the items' relevance and comprehensibility, resulting in further refinements. Parental and participant informed consent was obtained, adhering to the ethical guidelines of the Rīga Stradiņš University Ethics Committee.



Results

Exploratory Factor Analysis: Principal Axis Factoring (PAF) with Promax rotation, based on a polychoric correlation matrix, identified 5 distinct scales:

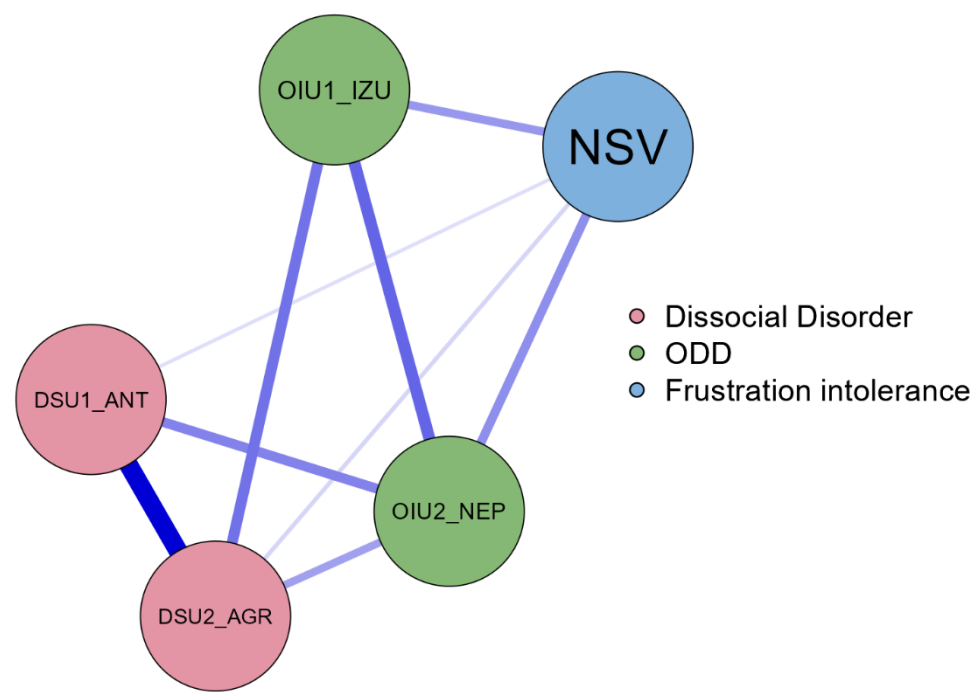
Two scales were derived for **Conduct-Dissocial Disorder**:

- Antisociality (8 items) (DSU1_ANT)
- Aggressivity (8 items) (DSU2_AGR)

Two scales were derived for **Oppositional Defiant Disorder**:

- Defiant Behavior (4 items) (OUI1_IZU)
- Disobedience (4 items) (OUI2_NEP)

•One scale for **Frustration Intolerance / Intemperance** (4 items) (NSV)



Psychometric Properties:

Internal Consistency: Cronbach's alpha coefficients ranged from .71 to .90, indicating acceptable to excellent internal consistency.

Item Inter correlations: The average inter-item correlation was .46, suggesting moderate interconnectedness among items.

Item-Total Correlations: Item-total correlations ranged from .40 to .78, demonstrating meaningful contributions of each item to their respective scale.

Table 1. Psychometric properties of the Conduct dissocial Disorder and Oppositional Defiant Disorder Scales

Scale Code	Scale Name	Number of Items	Cronbach's α [95% CI]	Range of Item-Total Correlation	Average Inter-Item Correlation [95% CI]	Range of Item Response Index
DSU	Conduct Dissocial Disorder (Total)	16	.90 [.88; .92]	.49 - .70	.39 [.34; .45]	1.26 - 1.85
DSU1_ANT	Antisociality	8	.87 [.84; .89]	.54 - .71	.45 [.39; .52]	1.26 - 1.85
DSU2_AGR	Aggressivity	8	.83 [.79; .86]	.41 - .66	.38 [.32; .44]	1.39 - 2.16
OUI	Oppositional Defiant Disorder (Total)	8	.85 [.82; .88]	.40 - .61	.42 [.36; .74]	1.69 - 2.33
OUI1_IZU	Defiant Behavior	4	.71 [.65; .76]	.40 - .61	.39 [.31; .45]	1.69 - 2.15
OUI2_NEP	Disobedience	4	.86 [.83; .88]	.62 - .76	.60 [.53; .66]	1.71 - 2.33
NSV	Intemperance (Frustration intolerance)	4	.83 [.83; .88]	.59-.71	.56 [.49; .61]	2.00 - 2.19

Conclusions

In conclusion, six scales have been developed, demonstrating satisfactory to excellent psychometric properties, enabling the assessment of dissocial-conduct disorder and oppositional defiant disorder traits in adolescents. Future research will focus on establishing the concurrent validity of these scales by correlating their results with those obtained from the Achenbach System of Empirically Based Assessment. Additionally, the scales' discriminative validity will be examined by comparing results between a general population sample and a group of juvenile offenders. Furthermore, these developed scales will be part of a broader instrument designed for the assessment of adolescent mental health and behavioral problems.