# Study on Interdependent and Independent Self-Construal and Three kind of responsibility with Subject Well-Being in Iranian Adolescents

Ehteram Dehnavi, Li Tsingan (Corresponding author)

Beijing Normal University, Institute of Developmental Psychology, Beijing, China tsingan@126.com, sndehnavi@gmail.com

**Abstract:** In this research the focuses are on self-construal by two parts: independent which means separate, individual and interdependent means relation and communication (IND&INTSC). Social responsibility with 12short stories about corporate citizenship responsibility (CR) or business responsibility (BR) and Personal responsibility (PR) of moral beings by 6 short story works as a mediator between independent and interdependent self-construal and subject well-being as depended variable. subject well-being" (SWB) including three parts: positive feeling, negative feeling and Satisfaction with Life (SWL) (Diener, 1984; Leung & Leung, 1992; Diener, 1995). We found that independent and interdependent self-construal has positively connected each other(R=693) SWB also supported by social and individual responsibility parameters. Relationship between interdependent and corporate responsibility (CR) (R=389) is higher than relationship between independent and (CR), (R=319), positive significant was found between three parts of responsibility and all variables, except negative feelings which has negatively affect with all variables. Most important that we found highest affect between interdependent and corporation responsibility in Iranian students which should mention on in further researches.

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**Keywords:** self- independent & interdependent, self-construal. Corporation responsibility, business responsibility, personal responsibility, subject well-being, Iranian students.

### 1. Introduction

Although cohorts have generated different conclusions regarding the level of their independent and interdependent reliant feeling, act and cognition are the individual experience of self-construal in various domains. Difference between interdependent self-construal which acts constantly relaying on others and being obliged to live mentally and physically by rules of others and forced collectivization but we are wondering if these variables work parallel or polarized? Iranian society enjoys Islam emphasizes some moral behavior like interdependent scales. More adjusting themselves on God, others and environment, (in Islam everything depends on God, People before doing anything first should consider God and society of Muslims benefits. The Iranian younger generation cultures which is mixed by ancient Persian cultural and Islam and worldwide context, revealed that students' interpersonal relationships play a central role in the person's daily life. (E.g.: My happiness depends on the happiness of those around me. Same as this poem by Iranian poet Sady that is on top of union Maine gate in New York City: "You who feel no pain at the suffering of others" "It is not fitting you be called human". Or < Of one Essence is the human race, thusly has Creation put the Base; One Limb impacted is sufficient, for all others to feel the Mace. "> so in Iranian social behavior we can't divided these two dimensions of self- construal. So what is the meaning of independence and interdependence in Iranian context?

The self-construal idea refers to the extent to which a person feels detached or attached to "the other "and is the awareness of such person of their own thoughts and emotions in relation in a wide range of social and personal behavior and experiences and one's environment conditions. We examined two significant of self-construal which was partly independent and interdependent of psychological functioning. (Bourne &, Shweder 1984; Markus& Kitayama, 1991). there are 24 questions 12 items access independent and 12items for interdependent self-construal.

Independence is produces a sense of self as detached, distinct interactions regarding individuals' preferences, beliefs, and abilities will be relatively focused on then can move relatively between in group and outgroup easily, but interdependence is the interaction with others produced by adjusting oneself to others, and using others plans, tacking the others perspectives and their sense of themselves as part of social relationships. People likely to refer to others and to understand their individual actions organized based on the actions of other people's even they like to set and their relations according relationships.... (A. Fiske et al., 1998; Heine, 2008; Kitayama & Cohen, 2007). Religious societies have influence on self-construal while Protestants, Muslims and Jews believe

that people have control over their thoughts by God (A.B. Cohen & Rozin, 2001) Iranian are Muslims which believe everything is managed by God and that cycle constitution among people shapes their environments.

The purposes of this study was to examine whether self-construal collaborated with priority Iranian and the validity of self-construal theory to explain cultural differences means and covariance structure analyses verified measurement comparability. Study some fundamental facts of responsibility facts. (e.g. avoiding to lie, cheat, or bribe and do some good jobs like caring for others,) which is acceptable in the whole world, and we wondering if it works as a mediator between independent and interdependent self-construal and subject well-being or not? These Ethical and cultural standards of responsibility acceptable conduct are applied to 3 topics including corporation, business responsibility and personal responsibility questionnaire which provided by LiTesingAn (stories topic are like: stealing, laying, bribery noble, drug addiction betraying and also great things like, communication with the society).

This item measured by stories then used the participant's answers by 6 points Likert measured. Evaluation of independent and interdependent self-construal is based on social behavioral and self-regulation experiences, (Wang and Conway2004) and also self-construal independence and interdependence as psychological scale. Subject well-being includes: positive, negative feeling and satisfaction with life were our second research by applying 20questions10 regarding positive feelings and 10 items for negative feeling.

Latest studies of life satisfaction (for instance, Diener & Diener, 1995) Specifically, by Kwan, Bond and Singelis (1997), includes 5 research questions two abstractly coherent and psychologically meaningful of life satisfaction related to independent and interdependent self-construal. There's some Study about Iranian people and SWB and self-esteem but not interdependent and independent. Here is showed more family stress and less global life satisfaction and subjective well-being (Alireza Agha Yousefi, 2010), another study about Iranian well-being was relationship between self-knowledge and mental well-being variables such as self-compassion, narcissism and self-esteem in Iranian students (Ahadi, khorsandi, Ansainiak).

It has been emphasized that in Iranian collectivist cultures are different social emphasis morality dimensions that interact with the self, life-satisfaction or subjective wellbeing. What is the meaning of independence and interdependence in Iranian context? What is the relationship between self-

construal and subjective well-being in Iranian students? What are the morality effects on independent or interdependent self-construal and subjective well-being among Iranian students? Is there any variability across different genders? What is the path between independent and interdependent self-construal?

A series of ANOVA models pointed out the verification of each group rather than independent and interdependent self-construal scores. The results confirmed the hypotheses. Discussion focuses on the independent and interdependent self- construal related to SWB. Subjective wellbeing has been the focus of intense research attention (Diener, 1984; Leung & Leung, 1992; Diener & Diener, 1995). There were positive significant effects between independent and interdependent if some participants got high grades in independent also got high in interdependent. this is different with in western culture, in which the independent and interdependent effects in the parallel work totally different.

# Hypotheses

Factor structure of the dependent and interdependent self-construal on the basis of literature review, we hypothesized that:

- 1. There is a relationship between independent and interdependent self-construal in student.
- 2. Independent and interdependent effect on participant's subject well-being.
- 3. It is claimed that responsibility works as the mediator and there is a significant cultural difference related to independent and interdependent self-construal effects. And subjective well-being among and Iranian students.
- 4. The following results will be logically explicable different between which is not religious culture and Iran that is believe in God and attribute life events mostly to God (Brenner, 1996; Shahiraa & Chang, 2003). There have been observed to construct their self-concepts on the basis of religion rather than social relationships (Brenner, 1996).
- 5. Independent and interdependent self-construal effect on subjective well-being across different age groups and different gender and in this process cultural value and morality facts would work as mediators.

### Method

## **Participants**

Participants were adolescence student (year's between16-18-year-old) of Tehran in three different level of study. (First, second and third grad in high school) All participant N=483 man= 300, male with an average age 17, and women183, missing data was 27, total recovery of valid questionnaires for (N=483).

## Measures

In this paper we examined self-construal which have two parts: independent and interdependent (IND&INTSC) refer to Shweder & Bourne, 1984; Markus& Kitayama, 1991-1994 and Subject wellbeing include positive feeling, negative feeling and satisfaction with life. Three parts of responsibility; responsibility, personal or individual responsibility and business responsibility aspect between different gender groups using from the questionnair method for collecting data and SPSS software for analyzing data, also we applied T-test and ANOVA. For measurement of self-construal two-dimensional emphasis on researchers (interdependent and independent self-construal) have postponed by Markus and Kitayama (1991) and Singelis (1994). The participants responded to each item on a 6-point scale going from "1" (strongly disagree) to "6" (strongly agree). The Cronbach alphas for the overall sample were, respectively. Twelve items assess independence (e.g.," I feel comfortable using someone else's first name soon after I meet them, even if they are much older than I am").and other 12items, assess interdependence (e.g." Even when I strongly disagree with members of my group. I avoid an argument reflects fulfilling duties to others"). The self -construal scale validity and reliability has been presented by an evidence for measurement of independent and interdependence that consistency reliability reported with Cronbach's alpha coefficients of approximately.0.717>for independent items and, 0.712>for interdependent items. For the, Satisfaction with Life (SWL) we used a scale expanded by Eduard Diener. Satisfaction with life is a cognitive process and the "universal view of the life quality conferring to self-established measures" (Shin & Johnson, 1978). There are fundamental facts for life health. satisfaction as friendship. financial. recreational activities and education (Campbell, 1981). Including 20 questions, 10 for positive feeling and 10 for negative feeling. With Cronbach's alpha we could build up the validity and confirmed the hypothesis. 0.745.

## **Empirical studies:**

In order to get data on the variables, four questionnaires were managed:

- 1- **Demographic variables** and information like, gender, the grade of study, parents' education, personal religious beliefs, totally 11 questioners.
- 2 **Responsibility parameters:** suggested by *Li Tsing an* with three parameters of social cognitions and humane manner such as help others (like; care others, donation or, patience quit doing bad thinks, e.g. stealing, crib, Laing and obey rules and law;, precepts and perseverance those are 18 story's subjects combind 3 parts: corporation responsibility, business responsibility and personal responsibility

each title have 6 parts, each dimension of Cronbach's alpha coefficient respectively shows: quit: alpha = 0.672, help: alpha = 0712; obey law instrument commandment: alpha =678.

3- Subjective Wellbeing (SWB) Subjective well-being inclusive 3 parts: satisfaction with life -Positive affects -Negative affects included 25 questionnaires revised for the negative and positive emotion and, life satisfaction. The revised scale includes three dimensions: positive emotions (10 items), negative emotions (10 items), and life satisfaction (5 items). The amount used in the scoring, followed by notes from incomplete agreed to fully agree with respectively 1 to 6 points, the reverse problem score. Scores higher, indicating each dimension of Cronbach's alpha coefficients was: positive emotions: alpha reliabilities were often low and only a few of the values were above alpha = 0.773; negative emotions: alpha = 0.839. View of satisfaction with one's life was measured by the Satisfaction with Life (SWL): Diener, Emmons, Larsen, & Griffin, 1985). Participants responded on a 6-point scale ranging from "1" (strongly disagree) to "6" (strongly agree), (e.g. "I am satisfied with my life"). (c.f., Larsen, Diener, & Emmons, 1985; Pavot & Diener, 1993). Our sample alpha value was 0.769.

# 4- Independent and interdependent Self-construal:

The revised scale consists of two dimensions: independent self-construal (12 items), independent self -construal (12 items). The amount used in the scoring, followed by notes for 1 to 6 points. The problem from incomplete agreed to fully agree with respectively 1 to 6 points, the reverse problem score. The score is high, indicating that the personality dimensions. Each dimension of Cronbach's alpha coefficient respectively shows: independent as: alpha = 0.717; interdependent self- 0.712.

### Procedure

The participants have filled out questionnaires that have been given by their own department's manager. First one was the demographic questionnaire the basic letter, questionnaire without any subjects would reveal the identity information, (taken by the successful experience of international famous psychologist, which set the "matching code", was the number of the subjects at the end as gender age and family information's, the second scale issued, responsibility demotions ", combined 18 short stories that ended by questionnaire. The third release < selfconstrual scale > and the subjective well-being questionnaire was the fourth. In addition, Subjects were supposed to fill in the questionnaire there was no time limitation but almost progress for each session took 30 minutes.

### Results

There was significant between independent and SC&INTSC) interdependent (IND (R=.693).Significant between interdependent and independent with subject well-being was INDSC&SWB (R=243), INTSC&SWB(R=313). Significant for Interdependent and CR (the first scale of responsibility) was (R=.319) but relation between independent and CR was (R=.383). It means interdependent self-construal will be much more involve corporate responsibility. INDSC and BR (second part of responsibility facts) had positive significant (R=389\*), INTSC &BR significant was (R=.305). It is reasonable Also INDSC and PR (personality responsibility) hade positive significant (R=308) and INTSC& PR (R=.379) this is meaningful for Iranian society. Another thinkable fact was SWB which have three parts (feeling positive and feeling negative and satisfaction with life) negative feeling had negative significant with all variables. As the table shows the amount of horizontal correlation between SWB and positive feeling is at highest in

which, means that Iranian students who are between 16-18 years old and the H1d is accepted. For the second hypothesis which is: the amount of vertical independence and interdependence self-construal isn't the same for different age groups. After entering data to the software the result revealed as below: As it is shown because the significance level is lower than error level of 0.05, the average between series are different so the second hypotheses is accepted. The average amount between different groups is same. For the fourth hypothesis, the analysis of the data shows that significance level is lower than error level thus the vertical collectivism between groups is different. The table of Test is shown as below. The hypothesis is accepted. Twenty-four items loaded on INT & IND self-construal, developed according the theoretical model (Markos) and they were used with 6 Likert points. The inter correlation among the facts shown in table 1.

Table 1: Cross-Lagged regression analysis ANOVA in Iranian Interco relation Average

	M(SD)	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
1- INTSC	4.16(0.61)	1			16.5.5.5					-/-
2- INDSC	4.17(0.61)	.693**	1							
3- CR	3.66(0.67)	.319**	.389**	1						
4- BR	3.64(0.78)	.305*	.369**	.383**	1					
5- PR	4.02(0.89)	.379**	.308**	.377**	.431**	1				
6- SWL	3.81(0.70)	.225**	.207**	.294**	347**	.346**	1			
7- <b>PF</b>	3.94(0.81)	.309**	.263**	361**	314**	.253**	.284**	1		
8- NF	3.32(1.00)	216*	249*	206**	236**	216*	203**	.228**	1	
9- SWB	4.44(1.67)	.313**	.243**	.396**	.355**	.315**	.677**	.618**	699**	1

Note. N=483. For gender, 1 = male, 2 = female. INDSC = independent self-construal. INTSC. = interdependent self-construal. SWL=satisfaction with life. SWB=subject well-being CR=corporation Responsibility, BR=business Responsibility, PR=personal Responsibility. PF=positive feeling NF=negative feeling P < .05.

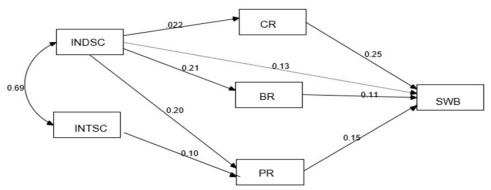


Figure 1. This simple path model, adapted from results in a Journal of Consumer Behaviour paper, is an example of a figure.

## Research description

The sample was composed of 483 subjects all selected from Tehran high schools in various social areas and from different family conditions with different economical educational levels.

Instruments which applied for interdependent and independent self-construal were used the self-construal scale which belongs to Theodore M. Singelis, and for satisfaction with life scale (SWL) provided by Eduard Diener and copying methods refer to solve personal and social problems to reduce conflict. Satisfaction with life is a cognitive process and expresses the "global perception of the life quality of a person, according to self-established criteria" (Shin & Johnson, 1978). There is some funding to life as health, relation, financial.

Each participant based on abilities and personal attitudes and organizes behavior to stay on first characters shoes and in order to handle internal and external requirements and provided some of basic psychological needs which related to well-being. But in this study we avoid to mention representing different culture needs the ones which need specific method so they are all simply ignored in this research. The results support that the hypothesized self-construal and SWB.

#### Conclusion

We set out to ask if a model of independent and interdependent self- construal developed by three facts of responsibility and model of subjective wellbeing was appropriate in Iranian culture considering as an Asian country which has a collectivist cultures. Self-construal with SWB effect and complete each other (Culture and self has led to the realization that people and their sociocultural worlds are not separate from one another. Instead they even require each other. In an ongoing cycle of mutual constitution, people are sociocultural shaped (Schweder, 2003). Almost 99% of Iranian are Muslim and their beliefs extent their worldview and construal of self-others and also subjective wellbeing. Although Iranian deep culture,

these parameters as foundations for all people behaviors (e.g., donation or giving, patience, caring of others, and avoid of lying cheating and traitor thief and peculator. We found that subject wellbeing and self-construal are in harmony with responsibility aspects, which were positively correlated in Iranian with age16—18 by different theoretical descriptions. each item according to a 6-point scale ranging from strongly agree to strongly disagree using these data, item-to-scale correlations were computed for all of the items with all of the scales. According results of this relation between independent interdependent variables which was positive(R=693) that is impossible to divide two forms of self-construal clearly separable in terms of their impacts on the criterion measures. They could be two sides of same construct in Iran, because there are some facts according to cultural value means positive behavior but for psychological view there are symbols of interdependent and negative behavior. (Tong, Chang, & Koh, 2003). There are also many times measures of self-construal fail to mediate cultural differences in specific behaviors (Kitayama et al., 2009).

We set out to ask whether independent and interdependent self-construal have relations with each other(R=693) and have been developed within responsibility related to subjective well-being in Iranian students who are mostly Muslims believe in Allah who has created everything and anything that will happen, so Allah manages everything even the ones we don't like, have to accept.

## Limitations

In this study there are limitations Specified that this study was taken place in Tehran (Capital of Iran), it is difficult to generalize the findings of this study to all Iranians or even Iranians residing in other parts of the world. The measure the researcher should be more expanded. Another limitation to this study is the participants age (16-18) based on the limitations of this study in order to increase Future Research validity could be considering in Further studies. The failure to

find gender differences for some scales could be due to low alpha reliabilities. Gender differences for the original self-construal scales were rare. These results further highlight the importance of distinguishing specific factors of Independent and Interdependent. Independent and interdependent self-construal can expect subjective well-being across different age groups and different gender and in this process culture value dimension would assert as mediator. The subject well-being involved 10 items for positive, 10 items for negative feeling and 5items for satisfaction with life could be individually analyzed in further. What is personality situation effect on interdependent and interdependent and swb (e, g, if student's family have higher incomes, could be higher individualism rather than collectivism.

Correspondence Concerning this article: Li Tsingan, Institute of Developmental psychology Beijing Normal University-Beijind100875, china Email: tsingan@126.com, and sndehnavi@yahoo.com

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