

Process of Translation of the Children's Worlds Subjective Well-Being Scale in Indonesia

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Abstract—Indonesia has been participating in the Children's Worlds international project on conducting a survey of children's well-being. A new context-free multi-item scale named CW-SWBS (Children's Worlds Subjective Well-Being Scale) has been used on this survey. Since the original version of the scale was in English, the scale required to be translated into Indonesian language. The aim of this article is to explain the translation process. Method used in this study including testing the translated scale for legibility and how children understood the wording, conducting Focus Group Discussion (FGD) with children, working on back translation, and sent the back translated scale to Children's Worlds coordination secretariat to be reviewed. This process has been done in the pilot testing of Indonesian version of the CW-SWBS in children age 8, 10, 12 year-olds (N = 425) in Bandung, West Java. Result findings showed the Indonesian version of CW-SWBS has been translated excellently and was understood by children age 8, 10, and 12 year-olds.

Keywords—children; CW-SWBS; Indonesia; life satisfaction; subjective well-being; West Java

I. INTRODUCTION

Most SWB instruments were developed in English, but an increasing number of studies require instruments in several languages. For researchers working with populations in non-English speaking countries, translating English version questionnaires into local language is necessary [1-3]. Researchers need to notice and consider the methods required to produce high quality translations. The researchers could not just send the scales to professional translators. Process of adaptation is not only about translating the scales literally, but as well about following a method on developing valid and reliable psychometric scales.

Children's Worlds is a research project which collects data of children's SWB in as many countries as possible (www.isciweb.org). Children's Worlds project is developing the third wave of data collection in about 40 countries. It means the data pretends to be compared among countries cross culturally. When culture is viewed as having a potentially significant impact on how concepts are expressed in various cultures [4], then it is assumed that instruments used in another

country will likely need to go through some culture-specific adaptation [1]. The first step of the process of measurement adaptation is translating the measurements.

Indonesia joined this research project, therefore the Indonesian research team assumed the challenge of adapting a version of one of its instrument to be able to measure Indonesian children's SWB. We followed guidelines or standards for translation and cultural adaptation of the instruments from Geisinger [5], van de Vijver and Hambleton [6], van de Vijver and Poortinga [7], and van de Vijver [8].

The goal of making a translation from English version into Indonesian language is to keep the new version as similar as possible to the original version [1], as well as to strive for a conceptually equivalent version that measures the same constructs and in which constructs retain the same meaning [1].

Based on those guidelines and standards, this article will describe the process of translation of the CW-SWBS. We piloted the translated CW-SWBS to test the legibility of the translated scale (N = 425), conducting focus group discussion with children to hear their opinions to improve the wording, reviewed the translated version after the focus group discussion and made some changes based on children's suggestions, back translated the Indonesian version into English, and sent it to Children's Worlds coordination secretariat to be reviewed.

II. METHOD

Method included six stages of the process of translation which explain below.

A. Procedure

1) *Stage 1. Translation process*: there are possible sources of item bias as follows, (1) poor item translation, (2) inadequate item formulation (e.g.: complex wording), (3) one or a few items may invoke additional traits or abilities, (4) incidental differences in appropriateness of the item content [9,10].

First step in this translation process was learning about the blueprint of the scale. To avoid the item bias, the research team analyzed the meaning of each item in English. The research