

Investigation of Relationship between Personality Characteristics with Dependence on Chat among StudentsBehnoush Molavi¹, Leila Pashaei² (Corresponding author)¹ MSc of personality psychology, Islamic Azad University, Science and Research Branch of Tehran, Iran.² MSc of General Psychology, Islamic Azad University, Science and Research Branch of Tehran, Iran.

Abstract: Purpose of this study was investigation of relationship between personality characteristics with dependence on chat among high school female students. Based on research project correlation form, 270 high school senior female students in the field of Mathematics – physics in the 6th district of Tehran were selected by multi-stage random sampling. Tools for implementation of this research were: a) Neo personality inventory research; b) Young inventory. In order to analysis of data, description statistics (average and standard deviation) and inferential statistics (correlation and regression) were used. Results show that: (1) Personality features are significant in explaining dependence to the chat ($p < 0.001$). (2) Among personality features, temperamental neurotic had a significant positive relation with dependence with chat ($p < 0.005$). (3) The effect of personality consistency, openness and extraversion on dependence to the chat was positive but with low impact and also was not significant ($p > 0.005$). (4) Although there was negative relationship between personality characteristics of responsibility and chat dependency, but it was not statically significant ($p > 0.005$).

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Introduction:

Human beings had used different methods to contact with their fellow human beings at different ages. Using smoke, symbols (verbal, written), telephone, telegraph and also computer and Internet in recent century, all suggest the need to establish a relationship with fellow human beings (Farhangi, 2006) [4].

Internet, the emerging phenomenon of the last century, today is the obsession of many teenagers and young people. From 1992 which this technology was entered to Iran to today, tremendous growth from center to the far distance region is obvious. Coffee nets and Internet institutes grow rapidly which in every few steps, we can see one of them and it shows unique welcome of Iranian people to this technology (Welis, 2007) [5].

Although the statistics presented in the case of Internet use in Iran is far from the global statistics, But the Internet, computer games and chat are the main interests of many of Iran's youth. Countless parents ask this question that should they be concern with their children due to use Internet and chat? They concerned with some issues of this technology. Positive and negative reflections on the use of this technology have given them, (Effects that dependency to chat may have on personality features of students), put them in a conflict that finally allowed their child to sit behind the screen some times of day and stay away from the real world or not?

Nowadays, chat increased among youth people which psychologists have suggested the term addiction to chat (Farhangi, 2006) [4]. Young (2001) represented following symptoms for chat addicts based on extensive researches [13]:

1. Those who are connected to the network every day for several hours.
2. After connection to the network, lose time control.
3. They go out home very few and spend most of their time behind computer.
4. They spent little time for personal work and even eat their food in front of the monitor.
5. They deny that spend much their time in the network.
6. They check their e-mail several times a day.
7. They believe that have the best and most popular personal page.
8. They feel relieved and relaxed when communicate with their online friends.
9. They lose their jobs and other social responsibilities.
10. They do not attention to their health and physical appearance.
11. They feel bad when they are off-line (Young, 2001) [13].

It seems that people, who addict to chat, involve in pathological behavioral disorder which is same to compulsive behavior disorder. Results show that addiction to the chat is similar to the pathological gambling and had the same features and consequences. Addiction disorder to the chat is a new

clinical disorder which could be a new concern about mental health (Young, 2007) [12].

Chat with online friends in chat rooms would stimulate teenagers and young people to unlimited use of Internet. Also, Young (2007) believes that Internet vulnerabilities are just bored, depressed, introverted and without self-esteem, which may also have a history of addiction to other drugs [12]. Problems of each individual life and character and mentality of each person is effective on how to use the Internet and time which they spent (Yang, 2007) [12].

A new growing concern is optional network obsession that is include compulsive gambling in Internet, compulsive use of sites or sexy chat rooms, online auctions and extreme chat. These behaviors are highly addictive and person who have these compulsive behaviors is known as an addicted person to the Internet and chat (Mckena, 2002) [6].

Personality is a basic concept in psychology. Since personality involves all aspects of physical and emotional-mental dimensions, it can be said that behavior science efforts are in line with it. Overall, a true define of general features of personality in routine life refers to stable characteristics over time which do not change from a position to the other position and refers to person's essence. In general, behavior is influenced by the characteristics and cognitive and emotional abilities. To predict the behavior of these features, they should be closely examined (Haghshenas, 2009) [1]. Trait is feature or quality of distinguishing of personality. In our daily life, whenever we describe the personality of person that we know him/her, most time we follow trait approach and we tend to select features or prominent factors, in order to use it to summarize whole person's features in some words. This widespread define means that traits applied by three main approaches: it's possible to use them for summarize, prediction and explain of person's behavior (schultz, 1998) [3].

Some research which carried out in field of dependence to chat, suggest that chat has relationship with personality characteristics.

Jackson et al (2003) were examined the relationships between personality, cognitive style and use of the Internet in a longitudinal study [4]. Results indicated that extraversion and neurosis were associated with Internet use, but only during the first 3 months of home Internet access.

In research on Internet addiction, Tonioni et al. (2011) were discussed disadvantage of the use of Internet with long hour's online and avoiding interpersonal relationships in the real world as important criteria for the diagnosis of Internet addiction [10]. Lost communication with real people with trauma symptoms such as anxiety and

depression lead to the identification of users addicted to the Internet (Tonioni, 2011) [10].

In other research, Rayan and Xenos (2011) were examined personal impact of use or non use of social network Facebook. The results showed that Facebook users are more eccentric and narcissistic and less conscientious and also they feel less social isolation. Another finding was that Facebook users in terms of personality traits such as neurosis, loneliness, shyness and self-infatuation are different [8].

Gulliver and Ghinea (2009) examined the relationship between cognitive styles, user character and quality of multimedia perception (video, projector, TV, computers), began. Results showed that type of personality and user cognitive style affects on students' information uptake levels, their achievement in perception and also on confidence level [2].

Ranjbar (2009) examined the relationship between chat dependency and mental health of high school female students in Tehran. The research findings show that the people who spent more time to chat, their mental health and social communication would reduce [2].

Rahmani and Lavasani (2011) had investigated the Internet dependence prediction and seeking the sensation feel (subscale extroversion) in the five major personality traits and gender. Results show that there is positive significant relation between Internet dependence and seeking sensation feel and also there is negative significant relation between Internet dependence with satisfaction and loyalty [7].

Landers and Lounsbury (2004) studied the relationship between the uses of Internet and chatting with three features of 5 main characters. Results showed that using the Internet has a negative relation with three features of 5 large characters (pleasant, duty, extraversion) [3].

Saade, Kira, Nebebe and Otrakji (2006) showed that informational behavior of Internet users could be related to the experience of five major characteristics. This means that high score users openness of character test had a significant relation with the internet users [9].

According to abovementioned research, this study examined the relationship between personalities characteristics with dependency to chat was formed among students. The research hypotheses are:

1. There is relation between neuroticism (N) and dependency to chat.
2. There is relation between Extraversion (E) and dependency to chat.

3. There is relation between openness to experience (O) and dependency to chat.
4. There is relation between Appealing (A) and dependency to chat.
5. There is relation between Conscientiousness (C) and dependency to chat.

Based on our hypotheses, question is:

Do personal features have any role in dependency to chat or not?

Research Methods

Community, sample and sampling method

This research is descriptive and correlation type. Statistical society was formed from all high school senior female students in the field of Mathematics – physics in the 6th district of Tehran which were been studying 2011-2012. 270 students were selected by multi-stage random sampling.

Research Tools

1. NEO personality trait test

To evaluate the different type of personality which is personality trait, the short form of 60 questions in NEO BIG FIVE questionnaire and 60 questions type (short form) were used which 12 questions for each factor is considered and some of these questions had positive relation and some of them had negative relation with considered factor. Scoring was based on Likert method which for each trait, range from 1 to 5 was applied and 1= completely disagree, 2= disagree, 3= neutral, 4= agree, 5= completely agree. Thus, for each factor, the fewer score is 12 and the most score is 60. It means that if someone gives score 1 to all 12 questions related to each factor, 12 scores would obtain and if someone gives score 5 to all 12 questions related to each factor, 60 scores would obtain.

The reliability of the short form of questionnaire was 0.75-0.83 which determined by McCarty and Costa (1983) and its long questionnaire in the scales of neuroticism, extraversion and openness to experience was 0.68-0.83 and two factor of appealing and deontology (conscientiousness) was 0.79 and 0.63 respectively [5]. In this research, reliability of questionnaire calculated by Cronbach's alpha in was 0.78.

2. Young dependency to chat test (1996)

This questionnaire contains 8 questions and each question has two options (yes and no). If student mark "yes" to 5 or more than 5 questions, this student is addicted to the internet. In this research, Young questionnaire was used to evaluate the dependency to Internet and chat. Validation of questionnaire was 0.85, based on Cronbach's alpha.

Findings:

a) Data Description

Results of table 1 show that among personality features of subscales, extraversion has the highest average which was 41.79 and conscientiousness has the lowest average which was 29.97. This means that among all people in statistical sampling, amount of extraversion is more than other subscales.

Table 1: statistical characteristics of personality subscale features

Variable	Subscale	Average	S.D.
Personality Features	Neuroticism	29.97	4.88
	Extraversion	41.79	4.30
	Openness to experience	37.75	4.13
	Appealing	38.93	4.71
	Conscientiousness	40.93	3.93

Dependency to chat

Statistical characteristics of dependency to chat are highest, lowest, average and standard deviation of statistical sample in Table 2.

Table 2: statistical characteristics of dependency to chat

Variable	Lowest	highest	Average	S.D.
Dependency to chat	0	8	1.5	1.9

Results of Table 2 show that total average of dependency to chat is 1.5 and its standard deviation is 1.9. Based on cut-off point, people were divided in two groups (persons who dependent or non-dependent to chat) and results of this division are represents in Table 3.

Table 3- frequency distribution and percent of statistical sample (persons who dependent or non-dependent to chat)

Dependency to chat	Frequency	Percent
No	194	71.9
Yes	76	28.1
Total	270	100

Table 3 shows that 71.9 percent of students had not any dependency to chat and 28.1 percent had significant dependency to chat.

b) Data analysis

Table 4 showed that amount of correlation coefficient (R) between personality characteristics and dependency to chat is 0.281 and explains 7.9 percent of variable variance of dependency to chat.

Table 4: indexes and regression analysis statistics between personality features and dependency to chat

Correlation coefficient (R)	Explanation coefficient (R Square)	Adjusted coefficient	Error of standard estimation
0.281	0.079	0.062	1.87

In table 5, F is 4.54 and *df* is 5 and also personality features to define dependency to chat is significant ($p < 0.001$).

Table 5: summary of regression analysis of dependency to chat through personality features

Index source	Sum of squares	Degrees of freedom (<i>df</i>)	Mean square	F	Sig.
Regression effect	79.825	5	15.973	4.54	0.001
Residual effect	928.909	264	3.519		
Total	1008.774	269	---		

Results of analysis and β amount of Table 6 show that among personality features, temperamental neurotic had a positive and significant relation with chat ($p < 0.005$).

Also, according to standardized coefficient regression division (Beta) in Table 6, it can be concluded that the effect of personality consistency, openness and extraversion on dependency of people to chat is positive, but its effect was small and not statistically significant ($p > 0.005$).

However, there is negative relation between personality features of responsibility and dependency to chat, but it's not significant statistically ($p > 0.005$).

Table 6: variables which entered to regression equation

Index parameter	β coefficient		Standardize d β coefficient Beta	t ratio	Significant level
	B	Standard error			
Constant amount	-2.188	1.931	----	-1.133	0.258
Responsibility	-0.026	0.032	-0.053	-0.81	0.419
Compatibility	0.04	0.025	0.098	1.582	0.115
Openness	0.014	0.029	0.031	0.495	0.621
Extraversion	0.002	0.029	0.006	0.087	0.931
Temperamental neurotic	0.087	0.026	0.218	3.294	0.001

Explanation of research hypotheses

Results of this research showed that: 1. personality features are significant in explanation of dependency to chat ($p < 0.001$). 2. Among all personality features, temperamental neurotic had a positive and significant relation with dependency to chat ($p < 0.005$). 3. Impact of personality features such as compatibility, openness and extraversion on chat is

positive, but has a low impact and is not significant statistically ($p > 0.005$). 4. However, there is negative relation between personality features and dependency to chat, but it's not significant statistically ($p > 0.005$).

Findings of this research are accordance with findings of Jackson et al. (2003), Tonioni et al. (2011), Ryan and Xenos (2011), Ranjbar (2009), Rahmani and Lavasani (2011), Landers and Lounsbury (2004), Saade, r. g., Kira, d., Nebebe, f., & Otrakji, c. (2006).

Chat is a media tool which helps to have extensive communication. Extensive communication in virtual world, would help to people to familiar with factors associated with communication with other people. This kind of learning would be generalized with real world. Many students put away shyness by chat and think to have more communication. Excessive use of chat would lead to kind of separation from real world for students and spent more time in virtual world and more be secluded and do not attend in community (Ranjbar, 2009).

One of the main effects of chat is chat addiction which we investigate it based on pathological dimension. Symptoms such as obsessive thoughts about the Internet, to reduce the incentive to control appetite, inability to stop the use Chat and their sinking (withdrawal), as non-healthy features of the chat is quoted (Young, 2007).

Probably dependent people to chat would express anxiety, anger and impulses through their free speech in virtual environments such as chat rooms. In addition to the mentioned negative feelings, lack of compliance with the surroundings is probably more in addicted people to chat. Maybe temperamental neurotic people do not like to have extensive social relation or do not have ability to do it, so they selected chat as a way to have a limit and controllable relation with other people. A new published study in ABC site suggested that 80 percent of users which have significant dependency to chat, spent much of their time in chat rooms to escape from negative emotions, accelerating to reach legal adulthood, intimate relationships and express their feelings without embarrassment (Ranjbar, 2009).

If people were more dependent on outward-oriented chat, had a chance to chat as well, more social ties and establish more relationships because eliminating the need for their interaction, the rate for unattached people to chat reduce the compactness. On the other hand, people are less outward-oriented and some are inclined toward introspection, they more enjoy from individual activities and working with computers. Participants in this study showed less intention to introversion because of over use of chat rooms.

Since many students in this research are students, their curiosity and enjoyment of the unusual things can also be specific to this age group, as dependency to chat can not have a significant effect on personality difference.

It seems that students, who are dependent to chat, select the chat rooms as an unpleasant environment for expressing emotions. They express pleasant and unpleasant sensations in the virtual space comfortably and the comfort of their compatibility with the surrounding environment would be helpful. On the other hand, the dependence on chat shows positive approach to activities in virtual spaces. Persons, who receive a lower score in the pleasant, would be cynical and skeptical and they seem to compete with other people. It's possible that addicted people to chat show contrary traits due to obtain high score in pleasant scale. Chat like other technological phenomena, is a neutral technology and has positive and negative effects on the target user.

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