A STUDY ON RELATIONSHIP OF THEORY OF PERSONALITY AND TYPE OF ALCOHOLIC PERSONALITY

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Presented at:
NACSW Convention 2015
November, 2015
Grand Rapids, Michigan
A Study on Relationship of Theory of Personality and Type of Alcoholic Personality

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Introduction

- Alcoholics are getting increased steadily not only in Korean but also in worldwide.
- Alcohol use causes violence, accidents and injury, family problems, unemployment, diseases and so on.
- Alcohol is a causal factor in more than 60 medical conditions, including mouth, throat, stomach, liver and breast cancers, high blood pressure, cirrhosis of the liver, and depression (Alcohol Concern, 2015).
- Talbot - alcohol is a severe drug (Wholey, 1984)
- social needs - improving alcohol problems are required
- what the most important factor causing alcoholism
- Main Facotr: researches have focused on personality type of the alcoholic (Alvanzo, et al., 2013; Tragesser, et al., 2009; Nowinski, 1995)
Type of alcoholic personalities

- Negative
- Passive
- Introverted
- Depressive
- Neurotic
- Aggressive
- Antisocial
- Weak ego
- Type of personality - applies in treatment of alcoholics
- Researcher exams

**Flowchart:**

1. Type of alcoholic personalities
2. Influenced
3. becoming alcoholic
4. alcoholism
5. influenced
6. Type of alcoholic personalities
Aims of this study

- First, examine theory of personality and type of alcoholic personality resulted in the field of alcoholism study and research.
- Second, analyze if theory of personality can be applied to adolescence – before alcoholic.
- Third, derive external factors- main mechanism to be alcoholics.
Previous Studies and Researches

- **Personality - fundamental on the study of psychology**
- **Sigmund Freud** - human mental and behavioral processes can be considered as theory of personality
- Theory of Personality in addiction field - concepts of psychological pathology and inadequacy of character
- certain emotional and psychological character = abnormal propensity → using substances
- unique characters → drugs and alcohol user: for escape from reality to evade issues of life
- Evading from his/her reality is a adapt mechanism as less mature individual (Lindesmith, 1997; Gitae Kim, et al., 2005).
Adlers’ theory focuses on individual’s inferiority complex for interpretation of substance abuse.

The inferiority awareness of individual → alcohol and drug → avoiding social participation and pursuing.

those who depend → alcohol and drugs → believe to promote the ability for overcoming obstacles (Saduk Won and Hyunkyung Lee, 2005).
the nature of some personalities work as individual’s factor on the use of alcohol.

- Alcoholic personalities can be defined as dependent, immature, and impulsive (Traesser, et al., 2007; Gitaee Kim, 2005).

- Theory of Personality has a basic precondition which is inducing people to alcoholism is related with deficiency of character and/or potential deficiency.

- Researchers consider that alcoholics are defective in the most fundamental personality.

- American Psychological Association (APA) defined alcoholism as antisocial personality psychology until 1980 (Peterson, et al., 2003).
Most of studies and researches tried to find out the relationship between alcoholic personalities and alcoholism have reported that

- alcoholics have:

  very negative, passive, aggressive, antisocial, depressive, and neurotic tendencies (Nerviano and Gross, 1983; Sandal et al., 1987; Nowinski, 1995; Pattison et al., 1997; Inger, et al., 1998; Mulder, 2002; Armeli and Teenen, 2003; Heesook Kim, 2004; Tragesser, et al., 2009; Moonsun Chang et al., 2011; Alvanzo et al., 2013; Jeongwha Lee and Jeonngrak Son, 2013).
For example: negative emotion

- The negative emotion generally shown in alcoholics as a representative character could be a factor caused addicts.

- The alcoholic doesn’t have capability to cope the negative emotion → using alcohol excessively to avoid that emotion (Cooper et al., 1995; Armeli, et al., 2003; Forsyth, et al., 2003).

- **type of personalities appear similarly to the vast majority of alcoholics** (Ludwig, 1986; Mulder, 2002).
summaries

• avoidance of reality and dependency are very unique characters over a wide range of addiction aspects.

• these characters are very close analogy with DSM-IV which is classified dependency and avoidance among 10 characters.

• findings have presented alcoholism as aspects of psychological personalities.
This research planned to examine

- how theory of personality and/or type of personality can explain becoming alcoholic
- to suggest more influential factors to be alcoholics other than personalities.
- to support the research, a research model was created to verify a causal relationship of path geometry between adolescence period which were not influenced by alcohol and after exposure in alcoholism.
The researcher hypothesized hypotheses in order to proceed this study in three dimensions

1-1. The person exposed to alcohol will be formed a certain type of personality that corresponded to the theory of personality and/or type of alcoholic personality.

2-1. The specific personality in accordance with theory of personality and/or type of personality will have a significant factor becoming alcoholics.

3-1. External factors rather than specific type of personality referred by the theory of personality will be served to be alcoholics.
The Big Five Personality Traits are the best accepted and most commonly used model of personality in academic psychology.

Used neo personality inventory revised by Costa and McCrea (1992).

The five factors are; openness, conscientiousness, extraversion, agreeableness, and neuroticism.
[figure 1] Research Model

Personalities (before alcoholic)

- Extraversion
- Conscientiousness
- Openness
- Neuroticism
- Agreeableness

Alcoholics

Personalities (after alcoholic)

- Extraversion
- Conscientiousness
- Openness
- Neuroticism
- Agreeableness

Alcoholics

- e6
- e7
- e8
- e9
- e10
Samples and Data Collection

- Collected Data
  - Sample number - 502
  - Randomly from three addiction groups
  - Turned out as alcoholics from psychiatrists or specialists
  - Participating treatment programs
1) Age
   - Samples’ mean age - 35.77
   - Consisted with 75% of male and 25% of female

2) Race
   - 160 African American (31.8%), 100 Caucasian (20%), 106 Latin (21.2%), 59 Mexican American (11.8%), 24 Asian (4.7%), and 53 others (10.5%)
3) Marital Status

- Single (n=9, 19.2%)
- Live together (n=83, 19.2%)
- Married (n=43, 8.6%)
- Separated (n=58, 11.6%)
- Divorced (n=197, 39.2%)
- Others (n=24, 4.8%)
4) Primary caretaker

- Birth parents (n=165, 37%)
- Father (n=39, 7.7%)
- Mother (n=141, 28.1%)
- Step father + mother (n=27, 10.3%)
5) parents’ alcoholic status

- Parents (n=111, 22.2%)
- Father (n=146, 29%)
- Mother (n=68, 13.6%)
- Non-alcoholic parents (n=150, 29.9%)
- Primary caretaker (n=27, 5.3%)
6) education level
   ▶ Less than high school (n=137, 27.3%)
   ▶ High school or GED (n=193, 38.4%)
   ▶ More than high school (n=172, 34.3%)
7) Family income

- Less than $10,000 (n=177, 35.2%)
- $10,000-$20,000 (n=112, 22.4%)
- $20,000-$30,000 (n=37, 7.3%)
- $30,000-$40,000 (n=55, 11%)
- $40,000-$50,000 (n=53, 10.5%)
- More than $50,000 (n=68, 13.5%)
Analysis and measures

- Analysis - Structural equation model
- used SPSS 21 and AMOS 21
- Measures were selected that showed acceptable reliability
- Cronbach alpha values
Result

Confirmatory factor analysis

1) before alcoholics: $x^2=517.283(265)$, $p=.000$, RMSEA=.058, CFI=.808, TLI=.810
   - Delete unacceptable variables and analyzed it again:
     $x^2=200.931(54)$, $p=.000$, RMSEA=.061, CFI=.911, TLI=.917 $\rightarrow$ acceptable

2) after alcoholics: $x^2=670.202(265)$, $p=.000$, RMSEA=.073, CFI=.831, TLI=.827
   - Delete unacceptable variables and analyzed
     $x^2=430.577(220)$, $p=.000$, RMSEA=.058, CFI=.921, TLI=.927 $\rightarrow$ acceptable
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<th>S.E.</th>
<th>C.R.</th>
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<td>Before alcoholic--&gt; Conscientiousness</td>
<td>1.000</td>
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<tr>
<td>Before alcoholic--&gt; agreeableness</td>
<td>12.050</td>
<td>17.131</td>
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<td>.482</td>
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<td>Before alcoholic--&gt; openness</td>
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<td>10.337</td>
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<tr>
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<td>.252</td>
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<tr>
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<td>.494</td>
<td>3.759</td>
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<tr>
<td>After alcoholic--&gt; extraversion</td>
<td>1.386</td>
<td>.370</td>
<td>3.751</td>
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Two treatment methods for alcoholics have been applied
1) Participating treatment program after alcoholics
2) preventing alcoholism before alcoholics
Currently most of alcoholism programs focus on after alcoholics (post-alcoholism)
Suggested approaching method by the theory of personality is effective in alcoholism
This research presented

1) theory of personality is applicable to those who become alcoholics (after alcoholic groups) as same with previous research (Armeli and Teenen, 2003; Peterson, et. at., 2003; Tragesser et. al., 2009; Alvanzo et al., 2013;

2) theory of personality is not applicable to those who will be able to alcoholics (before alcoholic groups)
Conclusion

- this research shows
  
  1) we can not defined that unique personality is a main factor to be alcoholic.
  
  2) socio-demographic, economics, living environments, and so on can be more influential to be alcoholics than his/her personalities.
Limitations

- needed wider range for collecting data – used data were collected only from three cities in California
- Needed interview with alcoholics for further research
- Needed more female sample for comparing between male alcoholics and female alcoholics
Bibliography


