

CONTENTS

List of Tables	9
List of Figures	11
List of abbreviations	12
Introducción	15
Planificación del trabajo.....	18
Introduction	21
Work Planning.....	23
BLOCK ONE: THE THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK	26
CHAPTER ONE. CONCEPTUALIZATION AND ASSESSMENT OF THE BROAD AUTISM PHENOTYPE AS THE MILD AUTISTIC PHENOTYPIC EXPRESSIONS	27
First Part. The Hypothesis of the Spectrum of Autism.....	28
Second Part. The Broad Autism Phenotype: Filling the Gaps in the Autism Spectrum and Enhancing the Understanding of the Distribution of Autism across a Specific Population	44
Third Part. The Measurement of the Less Severe Expressions of Autism.....	56
Fourth part. A Closure of the First Chapter of the Present Dissertation.....	77
CHAPTER TWO. GENERAL AND SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES OF THE PRESENT DISSERTATION	83
BLOCK TWO: EMPIRICAL STUDIES	87
CHAPTER THREE. STUDY 1: PSYCHOMETRIC PROPERTIES OF THE SPANISH VERSION OF THE BROAD AUTISM PHENOTYPE QUESTIONNAIRE: STRENGTHS, WEAKNESSES, AND FUTURE IMPROVEMENTS	88
CHAPTER FOUR. STUDY 2: APPLYING A RASCH MODEL TO THE BROAD AUTISM PHENOTYPE QUESTIONNAIRE: ITEM SEVERITY ANALYSIS AND DIFFERENTIAL TEST FUNCTIONING OF THE ENGLISH AND SPANISH VERSIONS	122
CHAPTER FIVE.a. THE BASELINE OF STUDY 3: WHAT DO EXPERTS HAVE TO SAY ABOUT THE TWO-DOMAIN OPERATIONALIZATION OF THE BAP? THEORETICAL EVIDENCE ABOUT ITS NEW DIMENSIONAL STRUCTURE	156
CHAPTER FIVE.b. STUDY 3: IS IT POSSIBLE TO ASSESS THE TWO-DOMAIN DEFINITION OF THE BROAD AUTISM PHENOTYPE USING THE AVAILABLE MEASUREMENT TOOLS?	158

Contents

CHAPTER SIX. STUDY 4: THE BROAD AUTISM PHENOTYPE-INTERNATIONAL TEST (BAP-IT): A TWO-DOMAIN BASED TEST FOR THE ASSESSMENT OF THE BROAD AUTISM PHENOTYPE.....	189
BLOCK THREE: CONCLUSIONS.....	259
CHAPTER SEVEN. DISCUSSION OF THE OVERALL FINDINGS AND CONCLUSIONS.....	260
CHAPTER EIGHT. FUTURE DIRECTIONS AND WRITER'S FINAL APPRECIATIONS.....	271
REFERENCES	290
List of References	291
APPENDICES.....	325
Appendix 1. Chapter Three. Study 1. Psychometric Properties of the Spanish Version of the Broad Autism Phenotype Questionnaire: Strengths, Weaknesses, and Future Improvements	326
Appendix 2. Chapter Five. Study 3. Is It Possible to Assess the Two-domain Definition of the Broad Autism Phenotype Using the Available Measurement Tools?.....	329
Appendix 3. Chapter Five. Study 3. Document 1.....	334
Appendix 4. Chapter Five. Study 3. Document 2.....	340
Appendix 5. Chapter Six. Study 4. The Broad Autism Phenotype – International Test (BAP-IT): A Two-domain Based Test for the Assessment of the Broad Autism Phenotype	366
Appendix 6. Chapter 6. Study 4. Document 2. EFA in the CFA Framework (E/CFA) to Select Items Which Took Part in Alternative Pool of Items.....	417

List of Tables

Chapter One. Conceptualization and Assessment of the Broad Autism

Phenotype as the Mild Autistic Phenotypic Expressions

Table 1. DSM-V diagnostic criteria for autism spectrum disorder 299.00 (F84.0).....	29
Table 2. Autism spectrum disorder severity specifiers.....	31
Table 3. Revision of the commonly applied tests for assessing the BAP	69

Chapter Three. Study 1: Psychometric Properties of the Spanish Version of the Broad Autism Phenotype Questionnaire: Strengths, Weaknesses, and Future Improvements

Table 1. Descriptive statistics for all the BAPQ items and related variables	102
Table 2. Factor loading, modification indices, and expected parameter change for factor loadings in BAPQ-Model	104
Table 3. Modification indices pointing potential correlations between items uniqueness in BAPQ-Model.....	105
Table 4. Factor loading, modification indices, and expected parameter change for factor loadings in AlRig-Model.....	106
Table 5. Modification indices pointing potential correlations between items uniqueness in AlRig-Model.....	107
Table 6. Regression coefficients [and 95% CI intervals] for BAPQ-Str Model above the diagonal. Correlations and R2 below the diagonal.....	109
Table 7. Regression coefficients [and 95% CI intervals] for AlRig-StrModel above the diagonal. Correlations and R2 below the diagonal.....	110

Chapter Four. Study 2: Applying A Rasch Model to the BAPQ: Item Severity Analysis and Test Differential Functioning of the English and Spanish Versions

Table 1. Item descriptive statistics and IRT parameters	133
---	-----

Chapter Five. Study 3: Is It Possible to Assess the Two-Domain Definition of the Broad Autism Phenotype Using the Available Measurement Tools?

Table 1. Grid of ASD related areas of expertise covered in expert judgment.....	168
---	-----

Chapter Six. Study 4: The Broad Autism Phenotype—International Test (BAP-IT): a Two-domain Based Test for the Assessment of the Broad Autism Phenotype

Table 1. Revision of the commonly applied tests for assessing the BAP	194
Table 2. Rationale of the analysis.....	215
Table 3. Model fits	219
Table 4. Factor loadings for the final model.....	223
Table 5. Final items for the BAP-IT, items codes, Spanish and English contents.....	229

Contents

Table 6. Correlations among the BAP-IT and BAPQ subscales [S.E].....	232
Table 7. Total correlations and partial correlations among the subscales of the tests represented in the Figure 2.....	234
Chapter Eight. Future Directions and Writer's Final Appreciations	
Table 1. Findings of each keyword sorted by data source	286