

AN ABSTRACT OF THE THESIS OF

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Title: HOSTILITY HUMOR DIMENSIONS AND THEIR RELATIONSHIP

TO MEASURES OF GUILT

Abstract approved:

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The present study was designed to investigate designated humor hostility dimensions and their relationship to measures of guilt. The subjects consisted of 80 college students, 32 males and 48 females ranging in age from 16 to 53. All subjects were administered the IPAT Humor Test - Form A which measures 13 independent humor dimensions and the Mosher Forced Choice Guilt Inventories which contain subscales of Sex Guilt (SG), containing items referring to guilt about commission of sex-related acts, Hostility Guilt (HG), containing items referring to guilt about commission of hostile acts, and Morality-Conscience Guilt (MCG), containing items referring to guilt about commission of acts that violate moral precepts.

Results showed that there were significant correlations ($p < .05$) on 18 separate coefficients obtained with the use of the Pearson product

moment correlation coefficient. Significant correlations ($p < .05$) occurred for males between "unexpected snappy comeback humor" and guilt about commission of hostile acts, for males between "disgusted sharp-edged retort humor" and guilt about commission of sex-related actions, for males between humor that is "hostile against authority" and guilt about commission of sex-related actions, for males between humor that "evades guilt or embarrassment through rationalization" and guilt about commission of sex-related acts. A significant correlation was obtained by males between "humor with disgusted, sharp-edged retort tones" and guilt about commission of acts violating general moral precepts such as lying, cheating, and stealing, etc. A significant correlation for females occurred between "debonair carefree humor with sexual content" and guilt about commission of acts violating moral precepts.

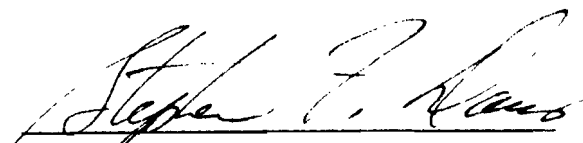
It was suggested that further study involve examining non-hostile humor dimensions and guilt about committing acts violating moral precepts for males and comparing the results to the findings in the present study. It was also suggested that since the study was an exploratory one into the area of humor and guilt, it may have some heuristic value.

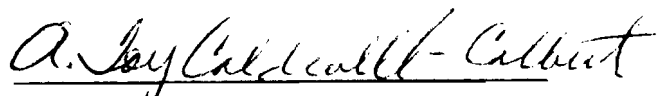
HOSTILITY HUMOR DIMENSIONS
AND THEIR RELATIONSHIP TO MEASURES OF GUILT

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Presented to
the Division of Psychology and Special Education
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CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION

Humor and a sense of humor have not been studied extensively in psychology. Overall, there have been few studies of laughter, humor, and wit. This tendency to ignore humor has been termed "the tenderness taboo," according to psychological investigators (Allport, 1960). It refers to the notion that the only worthwhile study involves negative emotions and that studying positive emotions is unimportant. Thus, most researchers have virtually ignored the more pleasant emotions of humor, joy, and happiness.

Most attempts at exploring humor revolve around studying situations of humor rather than the nature and function of humor itself. One theoretical explanation is the notion of incongruity which is considered the basis for perceiving any stimulus as humorous. In incongruity, humor develops from the view that at least two inconsistent, unsuitable, or incongruous parts can be united into one complex object or whole or that these parts can acquire a mutual relation from the manner in which the brain assembles them (Rothbart, 1976).

Another view concerns exploring the relationship between psychophysiological measures of arousal and judgements of funniness. This view regards jokes and humor as having arousal-inducing properties (Godkewitsche, 1976). This view holds that humor is initiated by a stimulus and ended with a response perceived as pleasure, such as laughter. Three factors are involved in the emotion of pleasureable laughter. First, there must be central arousal; second, there is a unification of arousal-inducing and arousal-moderating properties in the stimulus situation and

finally, there must be a consideration of a person's expectancies and usual ways of reacting to a particular stimulus situation.

Still another approach emphasizes the social situation in the study of humorous responses through the processes of social facilitation and intimacy (Chapman, 1976; Chapman & Foot, 1976). The social facilitation aspect holds that a psychological presence of a companion exerts certain effects which are independent of those which come from evaluation apprehension. Thus, there are actually two drive hypotheses involved in the humor response--social facilitation and an evaluation apprehension. The intimacy aspect of the social situation holds that there is a single and equal level of mutually compensatory variables involved in the humor response. These variables may be eye contact, interpersonal distance, smiling, body orientation, conversation topic, and so on.

A final view is presented by La Fave, Haddad, and Maeson (1976) and Zillman and Cantor (1976) who view humor as a disparagement or depreciation on the part of a respondent toward one who is being disparaged. The attitude and the relationship of the respondent are important in this approach. The approach considers superiority and heightened self-esteem as present in the amusement. It views some perceived incongruity as part of the theory. In the view, the respondent feels resentment toward a protagonist who is disparaged or who is down and out. He feels impaired when he feels sympathy or liking for the protagonist.

In addition to theorizing about humor, some researchers recognize certain elements of humor. One element of the humor construct is one's ability to comprehend material. Zigler, Levine, and Gould (1967) hypothesized that an important aspect of the humor response is the

degree to which the humor stimulus makes a cognitive demand on the individual. Three grades of male and female children were found to have the highest mirth and humor preference scores when the range of difficulty of subject material was moderately difficult. It was suggested that a motive of cognitive mastery is important in understanding the development of humor.

Another element of one's humor appreciation that has been hypothesized involves inhibition of mobilization. Singer, Gollub, and Levine (1967) hypothesized that a marked heightening of inhibitions involved in the expression of aggression would result in a decreased enjoyment of aggressive humor but that it would not affect non-aggressive humor. Subjects rated the funniness of twelve cartoons--four nonsense, four interpersonal aggression, and four high interpersonal aggression. It was found that mobilization of inhibition interfered with appreciation of aggressive cartoons, with the most interference occurring on cartoons that were highest in aggressive content.

A variety of personality variables have been investigated in the area of humor. McGhee (1976) studied the relevance of sex, age, and antecedent factors to humor responsiveness in children. Males and females in the age groups of three to six years and five to eleven years were studied. Results showed more sex differences in humor-related behaviors among older subjects. Males made significantly more attempts at initiating humor than did females. Lack of maternal babying was related to increased humor responsiveness for both sexes, and poor adjustment in the home for the first three years was associated with more attempts at humor for females than for males. Development of humor responsiveness among females was related more to aggression and dominance over peers

than it was for males. Heckel and Kvetensky (1972) interviewed three to twelve year olds and attempted to obtain a humor rating for each subject through questioning by Piaget's verbal method. They found that humor was correlated highly with age, more so than with any definite personality factors. It was concluded that age was the greatest determinant for humor development and that humor themes have a hierarchical pattern of development.

Humor and family relationships have been studied. Prasinias and Tittler (1981) hypothesized that humor-oriented people result from a pattern of distance in the family relationship. The highly humorous group of three groups studied obtained the lowest cohesion scores and greatest conflict scores on the Family Environment Scale. This group also showed the greatest distance from the father. Humor orientation was slightly related to popularity but not to age, birth order, or number of siblings.

The relationship between humor preference and general intelligence was shown in a study by Terry and Ertel (1974). They correlated liking scores for hostile, sexual, and nontendentious cartoons with the scores on the Sixteen Personality Factor Questionnaire. Sexual cartoons were least liked by females with higher general intelligence. Nonsense cartoons were liked more by females with lower general intelligence.

Verinis (1970) explored the inhibition of the enjoyment of humor as it was related to the intraversion-extraversion variable. Female high school graduates who were high in intraversion showed the greatest amount of inhibition of enjoyment of humor.

Koppel and Sechrest (1970) studied intelligence and extraversion as variables related to both humor creation and humor appreciation.

Humor appreciation, humor creation, intelligence, and extraversion were found to be distinct. Correlations of intelligence and extraversion variables were higher with humor creation than with humor appreciation.

One aspect of personality study is that of moral development. McGhee (1974) investigated the relationship between level of moral development and children's appreciation of humor in different levels of quantity and intentionality of damaging outcomes in three studies. His results showed that heteronomous children (those subjected to external controls outside themselves) consistently found stories with highly damaging outcomes funnier than stories with less damaging outcomes. He concluded that while increased unacceptability of an outcome adds to its funniness for heteronomous children, it detracts from humor appreciation for adults and more morally mature autonomous children.

Personal adjustment and creativity are important factors related to humor. Clabby (1980) studied twelve variables thought to be related to wit. Measures completed by 58 undergraduate subjects included the Adjective Check List, Personality Research Form, and Wit Selection Measure. A significant correlation was found between wit and creativity as well as between wit and personal adjustment. Results indicated that creativity was the best single predictor of wit. Personal adjustment combined with creativity revealed the next highest contribution.

Goldsmith (1979) studied adaptive regression, humor, and suicide among thirty-one female psychiatric inpatients. Her results revealed a significant negative relationship between suicide potential and both adaptive regression and ego strength, as well as a positive correlation between ego strength and humor.

The social aspects of personality and humor were studied by O'Connell (1969), who examined the relationships between psychometric measures of humor, hostile wit and resignation appreciation and between behavioral displays of wit and other peer group interaction. Little relationship existed between wit production and appreciation. A funny wit personality was considered by one's peers as an influential leader, quite popular and active but independent. The sarcastic counterpart appeared more hostile and less influential and popular.

Conservatism was studied as a personality trait along with humor preference. Wilson and Patterson (1969) found that high conservative high school students preferred safe, formal types of humor, e.g. puns, while low conservatives (liberals) showed greater appreciation of transparently libidinal types of humor, e.g. sick and sexual. The authors noted the importance of individual differences in the extent to which one will disguise the structured aspects of the joke medium before the humor response is made.

Humor and attractiveness have been studied. Wilson and Brazendale (1974) examined sexual attractiveness ratings of females as predictors of personality and humor preference. A humor test showed that unattractive females preferred humorous cartoons depicting attractive females being admired or approached by young males. Physical attractiveness and neuroticism were examined as a part of the equity theory of interpersonal attraction. Feingold (1981) examined the non-physical attribute of sense of humor among couples sixteen to thirty years of age. It was found that women who had better looking partners than themselves had a better sense of humor and were lower in neuroticism than women who had partners less attractive than themselves.

An area of relatively small study concerns what dimensions or varying aspects of humor are related to guilt. If it is assumed that various types of humor have specific personality correlates, then it is important to determine the relationship between these correlates and guilt. Social and cultural mores play an important role in the development of both a sense of humor and guilt for most persons. Both humor and guilt are learned. How one is related to the other is a problem in need of study.

Simon (1977) discussed the guilt personality variable along with other concepts which Freud held as concepts that humor served to mediate. He explained how Freud's repression concept could be understood by noting that humor helps one to deal with one's guilt. He also suggested that Freud may have ranked humor along with psychoanalysis as effective in dealing with one's guilt.

Lamb (1968) hypothesized that subjects with a high generalized expectancy for self-mediated punishment (or subjects with high guilt) in the area of sex would express more enjoyment of cartoon humor after being subjected to a sexual arousal condition than would those having low sex guilt. He also hypothesized that those subjects with high guilt would enjoy sexual cartoons more than those with aggressive or other themes. He found that his first hypothesis was supported by the results. However, no positive relationship existed between sex guilt and cartoon theme in the arousal condition. Lamb concluded that sex guilt was a major mediating factor in the relationship between arousal and expression and that specific situational factors are important in the enjoyment of sex humorous materials. Lamb's hypothesis was supported by Schwartz (1972) who found that, in the stimulating condition,

sex guilt was not related to displacement in that expectations for censure had no effect on humor.

Medanich (1974) investigated the effects of the sex of the respondent, a personality trait, and types of arousal upon the judgements of sex-relevant humor. Two groups of males and two groups of females were formed by performance on the Mosher Forced Choice Guilt Inventories. The subjects were then shown films in which a variety of different sexual activity was being performed. The subjects then rated cartoons for degree of humor. The low sex guilt subjects rated the cartoons as being more humorous than did the high guilt subjects. Males viewed the cartoons as more humorous overall. Low sex guilt males had slightly lower humor ratings after the heterosexual film than after a control film; and they were slightly lower following the homosexual film. Low sex guilt females had higher humor ratings than high sex guilt females. Female humor ratings increased following the homosexual film and lessened after the heterosexual film.

The relationship between levels of guilt and the preponderance for persons to use hostility humor is not clearly understood. The disparagement view of humor (La Fave et al, 1976) comes closest to describing most humor as innately hostile and deprecatory on the part of a respondent toward a perceived inferior target of a humorous response. How this disparagement or hostile approach in the definition of humor is related to the social learning definition of guilt (a generalized expectancy for self-mediated punishment) is not clearly understood. Lamb (1968) says that sex guilt is important in enjoying humor but not sex humor specifically. A problem arises concerning how much humor is defined by a hostility or a disparage-

ment view and how this view relates to the hostility personality dimension in guilt. It would seem likely that if a disparagement or innate hostility approach to the definition of humor is valid, then definite correlations exist between hostility dimensions of humor and hostility guilt. The present study attempted to answer this question.

The present study investigated a measure of guilt and its relationship to various independent hostility dimensions of humor. The three measures of guilt were sex guilt, hostility guilt, and morality-conscience guilt. The hostility humor dimensions were designated by the researcher.

The present study attempted to determine how six independent hostility dimensions of humor, IPAT (Cattell & Tollefson, 1963) Humor Factors 1,2,3,5,6, & 9 are related to guilt on the Mosher Scale (1966) in three areas--hostility, sex, and morality-conscience guilt (See Table 1). How do males and females differ in the relationship between these humor dimensions and guilt? It was assumed that two independent dimensions of hostility would be positively correlated with the hostility dimension of guilt: Humor Factor 3 - Tough Self-Composure and Factor 5 - Hostile Derogation. Four hostility humor dimensions would be negatively related with the hostility dimension of guilt: Factor 1 - Anxious Considerateness, Factor 2 - Dry Wit, Factor 6 - Impudent Defiance of Decency, and Factor 9 - Damaging Retort. The guilt factor, Factor 11 - Anxious Concern, should be negatively correlated with all three dimensions of guilt: hostility, sex, and morality-conscience.

Table 1

IPAT Humor Factors Chosen For Study

<u>Humor Factors Designated as Hostility</u>	
Low Score Description	High Score Description
	Factor 1
<u>Anxious Considerateness</u> (A mordant, insulting and morose quality)	<u>Debonair Sexual & General Uninhibitedness</u> (Debonair, carefree character with largely sexual content)
	Factor 2
<u>Dry Wit</u> (Disgusted, sharp-edged retort tone)	<u>Good Natured Play</u> (Good-Natured Slapstick)
	Factor 3
<u>Compensation</u> (Handling damaging, disparaging retorts in a less crass manner dispelling insecurity)	<u>Tough Self-Composure</u> (Handling of damaging retorts in a tough-minded manner)
	Factor 5
<u>Urbane Pleasantness</u> (Tendency to joke lightly and easily)	<u>Hostile Derogation</u> (Deflating prestige or reputation in a hostile manner)
	Factor 6
<u>Impudent Defiance of Decency</u> (Hostile against authority or standards)	<u>Resignation</u> (Passive resignation to life and its problems)
	Factor 9
<u>Damaging Retort</u> (A preponderance for damaging hostile comebacks directed to a person or life in general)	<u>Unexpected Off Beat Humor</u> (Unexpected snappy comeback tones but showing competence handling ego relations)

Humor Factor Designated as Guilt

Low Score Description

High Score Description

Factor 11

Anxious Concern

(Exhibition of or certain
anxiousness or concern over
the outcome of various
behaviors)

Evasion of Responsibility

(Evades guilt or embarrass-
ment or responsibility
through joking or rational-
ization and a clever
rejection of any threat of
guilt, shame, or anxiety)

CHAPTER 2

METHOD

Subjects

The subjects consisted of 80 college students, 32 males and 48 females who were predominately white and middle class. They were enrolled in introductory psychology courses during the Spring semester at Emporia State University, which is a medium-sized college located in a rural midwestern setting. The age range for males was 16 years to 33 years with an average age of 20.25 years. For females, the age range was 16 years to 53 years with an average age of 20.23 years. The subjects chosen were volunteers from all sections of introductory psychology classes at Emporia State University.

Instruments

The IPAT Humor Scale (Cattell & Tollefson, 1963) was developed by factor analyzing dimensions which were sampled out of a total population of 1000 jokes taken from a variety of socio-cultural and historic sources. Many of the jokes were taken from foreign or English speaking magazines of more than 100 years in age. Form A of the Test allows the subject to choose between two alternative jokes (104 items) for each item scored. This avoids having a general level of humor prevalent throughout the test. Form B (120 items) requires the subject to rate as "Funny" or "Dull" each item. Included are pictorial cartoons on some items. Thirteen factors are measured on each form A and B. The factors of humor assessed by this test represent nearly every type of humor production. Each factor is essentially independent of each other in that one does not overlap to another in meaning or name. Each factor

contains high and low dimensions and a scale description of both high and low dimensions is provided by the authors.

The Mosher Forced Choice Guilt Inventory (FCGI) was developed from the original Mosher Incomplete Sentences Test (MIST). The MIST (1966) was developed to measure three aspects of guilt: Sex Guilt (SG), Hostility Guilt (HG), and Morality-Conscience Guilt (MCG). The FCGI has 28 Sex Guilt items, 29 Hostility Guilt items, and 22 Morality-Conscience Guilt items. Scoring the FCGI involves a weighting of each item endorsed with a -2 or a +2.

The original FCGI was designed for use with males. However, the appropriateness of its use with females is upheld by research findings. Janda and O'Grady (1978) found the same overall intercorrelation pattern for males and females on all three subscales. Later, they showed an equality of male and female correlation matrices for each subscale (Janda & O'Grady, 1979). They also reported no significant differences in internal consistency on each subscale for both males and females (male K-R 20's = .90, .89, and .80 and female K-R 20's = .90, .78, and .76 for SG, HG, and MCG).

The FCGI does not measure guilt as a feeling state at any given time. Rather, it attempts to measure a disposition to respond with a certain behavior pattern that may be described as guilty. Also, the Inventory is relatively easy to administer. It is efficient and simple to use for research purposes.

Procedures

Subjects for the study were tested in a regular classroom group setting outside the normally scheduled class setting. They were given extra credit points for their participation in the study. The IPAT Form A was administered and followed by the administration of the Mosher

FCGI at the same setting. Due to the nature of the Humor Test instructions regarding test department were given by the examiner. Also, on the Mosher Scale, test instructions were altered to fit students at the college level. Each subject yielded a raw score on Form A of the Humor Test. The range of scores is zero to eight. Only raw scores were used for data analysis. One raw score was yielded by each subject on each of the three factors on the FCGI: Sex Guilt, Hostility Guilt, and Morality-Conscience Guilt. A present-absent scoring system (1,0) was used in the study. This system has been found to be identical to the original weighted scoring system used by Mosher (Janda & O'Grady, 1979). Data were collected from both males and females on thirteen IPAT Humor Factors and on three Mosher Guilt factors.

The present researcher studied six factors from the original thirteen IPAT Humor Factors which appear to have clear hostility content. These hostility humor factors were: Anxious Considerateness - Debonair Sexual & Uninhibitedness, Dry Wit - Good Natured Play, Compensation - Tough Self Composure, Urbane Pleasantness - Hostile Derogation, Impudent Defiance of Decency - Resignation, and Damaging Retort - Unexpected Off Beat Humor. An additional IPAT Humor Factor, Anxious Concern - Evasion of Responsibility, was chosen for study as a guilt factor due to its clear guilt content.

Each of the six hostility humor factors and the one guilt humor factor were correlated for 1) both males and females and for 2) the total group of males and females. A total of sixty-three correlation coefficients were determined.

The proposed study used a correlation coefficient. A correlation coefficient determines the direction of the relationship between two

variables.

The index used in the study was the Pearson product - moment correlation coefficient. It ranges in gradations from -1.00 to +1.00. When $r = -1.00$, a perfect inverse relationship exists between the variables; when $r = +1.00$, a perfect direct relationship exists between the variables. When applying the Pearson, certain assumptions were made. First, there was linearity of regression. Second, a bivariate normal distribution existed. And finally, there was an independence of observations among the subject participants.

CHAPTER 3

RESULTS

Means and standard deviations by males and females on the six designated hostility humor factors and one guilt humor factor are shown in Table 2. Factor descriptions are given in Table 1. A total perfect score on each factor is eight and the range is zero to eight. A score of less than four indicates that the subject prefers humor that is described by the low score dimension; a score of five or more indicates that the subject prefers humor that is described by the high score dimension.

The overall intercorrelation range between the six designated hostility humor factors and one guilt humor factor was $-.20$ to $+.22$; for females, the intercorrelation range of values was $-.30$ to $+.23$; for males, it was $-.30$ to $+.50$ (See Table 3).

Intercorrelations among Hostility Guilt, Sex Guilt, and Morality-Conscience Guilt ranged from $.47$ to $.72$ for males and from $.39$ to $.55$ for females. Hostility Guilt refers to guilt over the commission of hostile actions; Sex Guilt refers to guilt over the commission of sex-related actions; Morality-Conscience Guilt refers to guilt over the commission of acts that violate general moral precepts such as lying, cheating, stealing, etc. (See Table 4).

Pearson product - moment correlation coefficients were yielded on humor and guilt factors. On Humor Factor 1, a slight positive relationship was obtained by males between the dimension Debonair Sexual (carefree character humor preference with largely sexual content) and Hostility Guilt HG ($r = .21$). A slight negative relationship was

Table 2

Means and Standard Deviations of Males and Females
on Hostility and Guilt Humor Factors

Humor Factor	\bar{X}	SD
Factor 1		
Males	4.25	1.30
Females	4.20	1.10
Factor 2		
Males	3.84	2.66
Females	4.10	1.30
Factor 3		
Males	3.71	1.44
Females	3.80	1.50
Factor 5		
Males	3.50	1.50
Females	3.50	1.50
Factor 6		
Males	4.46	1.24
Females	4.60	1.40
Factor 9		
Males	4.70	1.40
Females	5.50	1.30
Factor 11		
Males	4.68	1.37
Females	4.45	3.60

Table 3

Guilt and Hostility Designated Humor FactorsIntercorrelation Matrix (r)

IPAT Humor Factors	1	2	3	5	6	9	11
1	-						
Males	-						
Females	-						
2	-.09	-					
Males	.08	-					
Females	.22	-					
3	-.04	-.23*	-				
Males	.03	-.22*	-				
Females	-.11	-.24*	-				
5	-.18*	-.02	.04	-			
Males	-.21*	.11	-.09	-			
Females	-.18*	-.07	.10	-			
6	.11	.09	-.04	-.07	-		
Males	.25*	.02	-.10	.08	-		
Females	.03	.12	-.01	-.13	-		
9	.22*	.03	-.02	-.06	.19*	-	
Males	.50*	.12	-.30*	.37*	.12	-	
Females	.00	-.07	.15	-.30*	.23*	-	
11	.00	-.02	-.20*	.06	.09	-.10	-
Males	-.13	-.01	-.07	.02	.21*	-.09	-
Females	.12	-.01	-.28*	.09	.02	-.06	-

* $p < .05$.

Table 4

Guilt Factors Intercorrelation Matrix (r)

Mosher
Guilt
Scales

HG

SG

MCG

HG
Males
Females

-

-

-

SG
Males
Females

.45*

-

.47*

-

.39*

-

MCG
Males
Females

.56*

.65*

-

.61*

.72*

-

.47*

.55*

-

* $p < .05$.

obtained by females between Debonair Sexual and Sex Guilt SG ($r = .23$). A slight positive relationship was obtained by males between Debonair Sexual and Morality-Conscience Guilt MCG ($r = .31$) (See Table 5).

On Humor Factor 2, a slight negative relationship was obtained by males between the dimension Good Natured Play (preference for good natured slapstick) and HG ($r = -.26$) and SG ($r = -.34$). A fair degree of a negative relationship was obtained by males on MCG ($r = -.56$).

On Humor Factor 5, slight negative relationships were obtained by females between the dimension Hostile Derogation (humor preference that deflates prestige or reputation in a hostile manner) and SG ($r = -.25$) and MCG ($r = -.23$).

On Humor Factor 6, a slight negative relationship was obtained by males between the dimension Resignation (humor preference reflecting a passive resignation to life and its problems) and HG ($r = -.20$) and SG ($r = -.23$).

On Humor Factor 9, slight overall positive relationships were obtained between the dimension Unexpected Off Beat Humor (unexpected snappy comebacks but showing competence in ego relations) and HG ($r = .20$) and SG ($r = .23$). For males, a slight positive relationship was obtained between Unexpected Off Beat Humor and HG ($r = .33$) and for females, between Unexpected Off Beat Humor and SG ($r = .30$).

On Humor Factor 11, a slight positive relationship was obtained by males on dimension Evasion of Responsibility (evades guilt or embarrassment...through joking or rationalization and clever rejection of any threat of guilt or shame or anxiety) and SG ($r = .34$) and MCG ($r = .28$).

Table 5

Guilt and Humor FactorsCorrelation Table (r)

Humor Factors	<u>Guilt Factors</u>		
	HG	SG	MCG
Factor 1	.07	-.14	.10
Males	.21*	.03	.07
Females	-.04	-.23*	.31*
Factor 2	-.05	-.02	-.16
Males	-.26*	-.34*	-.56*
Females	.04	.10	.07
Factor 3	.01	.06	.01
Males	-.16	.07	.05
Females	.13	.03	-.03
Factor 5	.05	-.18*	-.11
Males	-.07	-.08	.04
Females	.11	-.25*	-.23*
Factor 6	-.07	-.13	-.04
Males	-.20*	-.33*	-.18*
Females	.00	-.04	.03
Factor 9	.20*	.23*	.15
Males	.33*	.00	.05
Females	.00	.30*	.12
Factor 11	.00	.11	.09
Males	.00	.34*	.28*
Females	.03	-.01	-.03

* $p < .05$.

To detect the significance of the difference between overall correlations, male correlations, and female correlations, a t-Test For Differences Between Dependent Correlations was performed on Factor 1 and HG and on Factor 11 and SG. These correlation values are not likely to be different $t(60) = .00, p < .05$ and $t(60) = .00, p < .05$.

A number of significant correlations have been determined at the .05 level of significance. To aid in the interpretation of the significant correlations, coefficients of determination were obtained (See Table 6). The coefficient of determination that is used to further study the Pearson coefficients refers to the variance in one factor Y that is clearly independent of the changes in the other factor X. It is represented by the square of the correlation coefficient, r^2 .

For the males, Hostility Guilt was correlated significantly with Factors 1, 2, 6, & 9. There were no significant correlations of Hostility Guilt with hostility humor dimensions for females. Types of humor involved in these factors included humor with a "debonair, carefree character with largely sexual content," "disgusted, sharp-edged humor with retorts," humor that is "hostile against authority or standards," and humor that contains "snappy comeback tones yet showing competence in handling ego relations." The coefficients of determination for Factors 1, 2, 6, & 9 are .04, .06, .04, & .10, respectively. This means that on Factor 1, for example, four per cent of the variance in Hostility Guilt is due to the changes in the Factor 1 and about 96 per cent of the changes are due to chance. For males, intercorrelations between Humor Factors 1 and 6 and between 1 and 9 were significant ($p < .05$). These factors involve humor which is "debonair sexual," "passive resignation to life," and "unexpected snappy comebacks."

Table 6
Coefficients of Determination on
Significant r Correlations*

Humor Factors	<u>Guilt Factors</u>		
	HG	SG	MCG
Factor 1	--	--	--
Males	.04	--	--
Females	--	.05	.09
Factor 2	--	--	--
Males	.06	.11	.31
Females	--	--	--
Factor 3	--	--	--
Males	--	--	--
Females	--	--	--
Factor 5	--	.03	--
Males	--	--	--
Females	--	.06	.05
Factor 6	--	--	--
Males	.04	.10	.03
Females	--	--	--
Factor 9	.04	.05	--
Males	.10	--	--
Females	--	.09	--
Factor 11	--	--	--
Males	--	.11	.07
Females	--	--	--

* $p < .05$.

For males, Sex Guilt was correlated significantly with Factors 2,6, & 11. Significant correlations for females were noted on Factors 1,5, & 9. For males, the types of humor involved "disgusted sharp-edged retort tone," "hostile against authority," and humor "that evades guilt or embarrassment or any threat of guilt, shame, or anxiety." The coefficients of determination were .11, .10, & .11, respectively. Male intercorrelations between Factors 2 and 6 (.12) and between 2 and 11 (.01) were not significant, while significance was achieved between Factors 6 and 11 (.21) ("passive resignation to life" humor and "humor that evades guilt or embarrassment or responsibility through joking...").

For males, two designated hostility humor dimensions involving humor of a rebellious and reactionary type were found to be related to Sex Guilt (-.34) and (-.33). Males who preferred the above type of humor in its hostile nature correlated significantly with humor preference that involved guilt evasion and rejection of shame and anxiety.

For females, Sex Guilt was correlated significantly with Factors 1,5, & 9. These dimensions involved humor that is of a "mordant insulting and morose quality," "light and easy jokes," and "unexpected snappy comeback" humor. The coefficients of determination were .05, .06, & .09, respectively. For females, intercorrelations of significance were found between Factors 1 and 5 (-.28) and between 5 and 9 (-.30). The latter humor is that which "deflates prestige," and "unexpected offbeat humor." Females had only one correlation of significance between a given hostility factor and Sex Guilt, while males had two significant correlations of hostility humor, as well as one between the guilt humor dimension and Sex Guilt.

For males, Morality-Conscience Guilt was correlated significantly with Factors 2,6, & 11. Hostility types of humor that were correlated with Morality-Conscience Guilt were "disgusted, sharp-edged and retort tone humor," and humor that "evades guilt or embarrassment/rationalizing humor." The coefficients of determination on Factors 2,6, & 11 were .31, .03, & .07, respectively. Male intercorrelations between Factor 6 and 11 were significant (.21)--passive resignation dimension of Factor 6 and the evasion of guilt dimension of Factor 11 were shown to be correlated positively for males.

For females, Morality-Conscience Guilt was correlated significantly with Factors 1 (.31) and 5 (-.23). Both humor factors include humor that is of a "debonair, carefree, sexual content," and "light and easy jokes." Both dimensions are non-hostility dimensions. No correlations of significance were shown between hostility dimensions of humor factors and Morality-Conscience Guilt for females. The coefficients of determination on Factors 1 and 5 are .09 and .05, respectively. Female intercorrelations between Factors 2 and 5 showed a -.18. Female intercorrelations between Morality-Conscience and Sex Guilt and between Morality-Conscience and Hostility Guilt are not as significant as those for males.

CHAPTER 4

DISCUSSION

The present research has attempted to note the relationship between humor and guilt by examining associations between various guilt subtypes and designated hostility factors of humor. The guilt factor was defined as generalized expectancy for self-mediated punishment which contains an implied hostile element. The present study showed that some significant associations exist between certain hostility dimensions of humor and three aspects of guilt.

As morally conscience guilt items endorsed by males increased, there was an increase in their preference for humor that was "sharp-edged" and "hostile against authority" and humor that "evades guilt or embarrassment." Males whose humor reflected "passive resignation to life" also preferred guilt-evading humor. While, at the same time, there was no significant correlation between "disgusted, sharp-edged humor" and humor that is "hostile against authority" for males.

There were observed differences in the kinds of humor preferences associated with guilt between the sexes. The differences appeared between the Factors Anxious Considerateness - Debonair Sexual and Hostility Guilt and between the Factors Anxious Concern - Evasion of Responsibility and Sex Guilt.

Also important to note are the relatively high correlations between Hostility Guilt and Morality-Conscience Guilt (.61) and between Sex Guilt and Morality-Conscience Guilt (.72) for males. As Morality-Conscience Guilt increased for males, there was a likelihood to endorse

items reflecting "sharp-edged retort humor," "guilt-evading humor," and to a lesser extent, "authority-debasing humor." The positive correlations between Sex Guilt and Morality-Conscience Guilt and between Hostility Guilt and Morality-Conscience Guilt suggests that those who responded similarly to Hostility Guilt and Sex Guilt subscales may have responded in likewise manner to the Morality-Conscience subscale.

A significant correlation between guilt and humor was observed in the present investigation by males between Factor 2, the low score dimension of Dry Wit--"a mordant, insulting and morose quality" and Morality-Conscience Guilt. Taking a look at the specific humor involved in this Factor 2, it is humor that has a "disgusted nature" and one with "sharp edges and strong retort tones." It has a strong critical tone. It is pointed and crass and gets to the point without being veiled in acceptable tones. Its opposite dimension--that of Good Natured Play--"Good Natured Slapstick," is self-explanatory. A closer look at the Morality-Conscience Guilt subscale shows a measure that contains items that are of a general and philosophical nature and deals with the overall sense of right and wrong. A high morally conscience guilty person may be rigid in his/her belief system and tend not to be open-minded about many issues concerning moral precepts.

The Factor 2, Dry Wit Humor, is of a disparaging nature, is deprecatory, and has by its nature a target that is clearly being put down or one who is shown as down and out. The disparagement theory of humor suggests that a large part of humor involves a deprecatory action on the part of the respondent toward one who is weaker or who is being disparaged (La Fave et al, 1976). Contained within the theory is the idea that humor is somehow innately hostile and that it can serve to aid one

in dealing with less appropriate emotions in a socially acceptable manner without acting out one's hostility.

All in all, the present study found significant correlations between Sex Guilt, Hostility Guilt, and Morality-Conscience Guilt and between six designated hostility humor dimensions and one guilt humor dimension. A total of 18 significant correlations were found. Observed differences were noted by males and females with regard to the kinds of humor they preferred. Also, overall low correlations between the humor factors suggest that the IPAT Humor Scale does indeed tap independent dimensions of humor. And finally, a significant guilt and humor correlation was found between males who endorsed items that referred to presence of guilt about violation of general moral precepts and a preference for humor that is sharp-edged and retort. It would be of interest to investigate the nature of the relationship between this type of guilt and a humor that is non-hostile in description and compare the results with the findings in the present study.

The results are intended to explore possible relationships which should be subjected to further study of an experimental nature. The significant correlations may prove fruitful heuristically.

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