Validation of Decisional Procrastination Instrument

Kelvin Ling, Listyo Yuwanto, and Ide Bagus Siaputra
Faculty of Psychology
Universitas Surabaya

There are various types of procrastination, one of which is decisional procrastination (Ferrari, Johnson, & Mann, 1995). This study aimed to translate and test the validity of the Decisional Procrastination (DP) instrument in Indonesian language. The subjects in this study were 112 active psychology students of the 2010 generation. Data was collected by distributing DP instruments in two languages to each subject. Based on the two criteria of validity test proposed by AERA, APA, and NCME (1999), the translated DP instrument version (in Indonesian language) proved to meet the requirement as a valid and reliable psychological measure.

Keywords: procrastination, decision making, decisional procrastination


Katakunci: procrastinasi, pengambilan keputusan, decisional procrastination

Procrastination occurs in every individual regardless of age, gender, or status as workers or students (Burka & Yuen, in Husetya, nd). Steel (2007) explains that procrastination is a voluntary delay to a series of tasks despite knowing that in the future it will be even worse. According to Ferrari, Johnson, and McCown (1995), there are several types of procrastination, one of which is the decisional procrastination or procrastination in decision making.

Jans and Mann (as cited in Fabio, 2006) states that decisional procrastination means a strong tendency to be unable to make a timely decision. Burka and Yuen (1983), defines the decisional procrastination as an avoidance to decide that is done deliberately and repeatedly in a given time interval. Individuals delay a decision on a matter because it is not his/her main priority (low priority), or they want to think about it again before deciding and taking an action (Burka & Yuen, 1983). Procrastination has an adverse impact, and it is not infrequently that this habit humiliates the person who engaged in it (Siaputra, 2011).

Siaputra (2011) explains that procrastination often economy, politics, law, etc. In the economic field, for happened in various fields of human life such as sports, example, the Greek political party leaders delayed their decision to accept or decline the requirements of the bail-out that seems difficult. In fact, sooner or later the decision must be made to avoid bankruptcy and warnings from the Eurozone countries that say that they can survive without Greece (Halimah, 2012).

In addition, the decisional procrastination is also found in the field of education. Karas and Spada (2009) conducted a study on the effectiveness of Cognitive Behavioral Coaching to reduce the procrastination intensity on individuals. Subjects in this study were 7 students who felt that they had reached the stage of chronic procrastination and fulfill certain criteria. The instrument used was the original Mann's Decisional Procrastination (DP) scale (with 5 responses) and Lay's General Procrastination (GP) scale (Karas & Spada, 2009). In that study, Karas and Spada found as many as 7 people (100%) showed a high decisional procrastination score with a mean of 21.2 (SD = 1.1; range = 19.6 - 22.4). This result was obtained by the measurements that were done on 4 consecutive weeks to determine the baseline score (initial boundary).

From the supporting evidences above, it can be concluded that the phenomenon of procrastination in decision making is still common in many people's lives. Although the negative effects of procrastination in deci-