

Abstract

Beck's cognitive model postulated that cognitive schema was the basic cognitive structure. Different psychological disorders were characterized by different cognitive schemas (content-specificity hypothesis, Beck and Emery, 1985). Young (1990, 1994) also proposed that different personality disorders was characterized by different maladaptive schemas. One of the origins of these schemas were supposed to be shaped by childhood experiences. The present study tried to examine the relationship between perceived parenting styles, maladaptive cognitive schemas and different types of psychopathology (depression, anxiety, and aggression) among adolescents. A mediational model was proposed. It was hypothesized that parenting styles influenced the formation of maladaptive schemas, which in turn led to psychopathology. Cognitive schemas were the mediators of parenting styles and psychopathology. A total of 790 secondary school students between age of 12 and 19 participated in the present research. Factor analyses were performed to examine the factor structure of the parenting scale and the Schema Questionnaire (SQ, Young and Brown, 1994). Results indicated they had sound factor structures. Correlation, regression analyses, hierarchical regression analyses, and structural equation modeling were further conducted to test the hypothesis. Findings generally supported the hypothesis that parenting styles were mediated by cognitive schemas. Furthermore, depression, anxiety, and aggression were characterized by different types of maladaptive schemas and parenting styles. Implications of these results as well as limitations and future research direction were discussed.