

Abstract

Inconsistent results have been obtained about the differences in response times between honest responding and fake responding. The current study examined the differences in response times across response options. Hierarchical linear model was used to address the multilevel structure of response time data, item level and person level, where many studies failed to cope with. Results suggested a mild positive linear relationship between log response times and response options, as well as a significant negative interaction on log response times between experimental condition (honest or fake-good) and a quadratic relationship, yielding an inverted-U pattern for fake responding where response times at the endpoints of the scale (e.g., strongly agree, strongly disagree) were faster, while those in or near the middle of the scale (e.g. neither agree nor disagree) were slower. Honest responding presented a fairly flat line with minimal inverted-U pattern, contrary to some studies. Theoretical and practical implications, together with future research directions, were discussed.