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| **LT4: *Cross Cultural Differences in Attachment*** | |
| The strange situation has been repeated in many different countries to see to what extent attachment behaviour is due to nature or nurture. | |
| **AO1 (Knowledge and Understanding)** | **A03 (Evaluation)** |
| **Van Ijzendoorn and Kroonenberg (1988)**  AIM: To investigate cross cultural differences in attachment behaviours.  PROCEDURE: Conducted a meta-analysis of studies using the strange situation in 8 different countries, using over 32 different studies.  FINDINGS: Securely attached infants were the most common in all countries. The lowest percentage of securely attached infants was found in West Germany and the highest was found in Japan. West Germany also had the most insecure avoidant infants, this attachment types was rare in Japan and Israel (collectivist cultures). However, insecure ambivalence was most common in Japan and Israel.   |  |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | |  |  | Differences within cultures (INTRA cultural variations) | | | | Differences between cultures (INTER) cultural variations | Country | % Avoidant | % Secure | % Ambivalent Resistant | | USA | 21 | 65 | 14 | | Isreal | 7 | 64 | 29 | | Japan | 5 | 68 | 27 | | West Germany | 35 | 57 | 8 |   CONCLUSIONS: Inter-cultural variations: The similarities in the findings between the different cultures (in all cultures, the majority of babies are securely attached) suggests that there may be universal characteristics that underpin infant and caregiver interactions.  Intra-cultural variations: However, the differences suggest that the child rearing practises within different cultures has an impact on the types of attachment bonds formed between infants and carers. There are marked differences within cultures. This suggests that the way children are raised also affect the quality of attachment. | **Internal Validity and Subcultures**  P: One weakness of VI & K (1988) study is that it has low internal validity.  E: This is because Vi & K (1988) meta-analysis does not take into account subcultures (culture within cultures) within each country studied.  E: For example, there is a substantial population of travellers within the UK who are known to mirror collectivist culture traits. If they were considered within the UK, the results may have been different, demonstrating higher levels of ambivalent attachment types. This is because infants may have higher levels of distress in a strangers’ presence and when separated from their main carer.  L: Consequently, their study is not measuring what they set out to measure (attachment types in a country). Therefore the explanatory power of the meta-analysis is reduced because VI & K (1988) do not offer a full account of cultural differences in attachment behaviour.  **Population Validity**  P: One positive aspect of Van Ijzendoorn (1988) study is that it has high population validity.  E: This is a positive aspect because it considers attachment types both within different cultures and between different cultures, studying the attachment behaviour of over 2000 infants.  E: This means that the attachment types found within and between these cultures can be generalised to other collectivist and individualistic cultures.  L: Therefore the findings have high external validity and as a consequence, are credible when looking at cross cultural differences in attachment behaviour.  **Use of Meta-analysis and Ethics**  P: One strength of VI & K (1988) is that there are no ethical issues associated with this research.  E: This is because the study used a meta-analysis to investigate the findings of studies using the Strange Situation in different cultures.  E: Therefore, issues such as protection from harm and informed consent would not have occurred during this process. The researchers would not have needed to subject 2000 infants to distress or gain informed consent from their carers.  L: Therefore, V I & K (1988) meta-analysis is an appropriate and effective method to use when investigating cross cultural differences in attachment behaviour in 2000 infants. |
| **Simonella (2014) – An Italian Study**  Aim: To investigate whether the proportion of babies of different attachment types still matched those found in previous studies.  Procedure: The researchers assessed 76 12 month olds using the strange situation.  Findings: They found 50% were secure, with 36% insecure-avoidant. This is a lower rate of secure attachment than has been found in many studies. The researchers suggest that is because increasing number of mothers of very young children work long hours and use professional childcare.  Conclusions: Cultural changes make a dramatic difference to patterns of secure and insecure attachment. | **High Temporal Validity**  One strength of Simonella’s (2014) research is that it has high temporal validity.  This is because it was conducted just two years ago.  This is a strength because it is very reflective of childcare practices in modern times. Italy – like the rest of Europe is recovering from an economic downtown and so this may have forced mothers to return to work earlier. Or it may be that as mother’s status in society becomes more equal to that of men, she is expected to go back to work earlier after giving birth. This research provides valuable insights into how modern childcare practices are changing the attachment styles of Western children.  L: As a consequence, this increases the validity of Simonella’s research into attachment. |