Reviewer’s report

Title: Measurement invariance of the depressive symptoms scale during adolescence

Version: 4 Date: 14 March 2014

Reviewer: Marjolein Verhoeven

Reviewer’s report:

I am generally satisfied with the changes that the authors have made in the text and their answers to my questions. I believe that the manuscript has been significantly improved and is almost ready for publication.

Major compulsory revisions:

1. In their response letter, the authors indicate that in the method-section they now explain how they have dealt with their longitudinal data. That is, they have incorporated the data regarding all three measurement into one model. However, I could not find this explanation in the method-section.

Some discretionary revisions are still needed though:

1. On page 5 the authors state that "the specific subscales of the DSS may be stronger predictors of future specific psychopathological symptoms". Stronger than what? Why is this important to study?

2. There is a typo on page 6 (line 16-17) "If not were not, the items were translated..."

3. On page 12, the authors state that the latent mean factors were non-invariant at Time 2 and 3 across sex and time. Could the authors indicate what the differences were between boys and girls and over time?

4. On page 13, the authors indicate that they used a 4-point Likert scale for the DSS, while previous research has used a 3-point scale. What is the original response scale for the DSS? If this is not a 4-point scale, the authors should state in their method-section that they adapted the response scale for their study.

5. On page 14, the authors state that 'the strong associations observed between the DDS subscales ...indicate that these relationships are stable across samples and measures of depressive symptoms. I'm not sure I understand what is meant by this. Could the authors explain why these strong associations indicate stable relationships across samples?

6. There is a typo on page 14: "Further, it is not a requirements to test"; requirements should read requirement.

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field
Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: No, the manuscript does not need to be seen by a statistician.

Declaration of competing interests:
I declare that I have no competing interests.