Reviewer's report

Title: Comparison of different rating scales for the use in Delphi studies: Different scales lead to different consensus and show different test-retest reliability

Version: 2 Date: 02 Dec 2019

Reviewer: Reviewer 2

Reviewer's report:

PEER REVIEWER ASSESSMENTS:

OBJECTIVE - Full research articles: is there a clear objective that addresses one or several testable research questions? (Brief or other article types: is there a clear objective?)

Yes - there is a clear objective

DESIGN - Is the current approach (including controls and analysis protocols) appropriate for the objective?

No - there are major issues

EXECUTION - Are the experiments and analyses performed with sufficient technical rigor to allow confidence in the results?

No - there are major issues

STATISTICS - Is the use of statistics in the manuscript appropriate?

Yes - appropriate statistical analyses have been used in the study

INTERPRETATION - Is the current interpretation/discussion of the results reasonable and not overstated?

No - there are major issues
OVERALL MANUSCRIPT POTENTIAL - Has the author addressed your concerns sufficiently for you to now recommend the work as a technically sound contribution? If not, can further revisions be made to make the work technically sound?

No - manuscript has some fundamental flaw(s)

PEER REVIEWER COMMENTS:

GENERAL COMMENTS: For the most part, the authors have addressed the comments of the reviewers.

However, I have one major concern about the paper. The scales differ from each other in two regards: the number of points on the scale (that is fine), and the labeling of the points (that is a problem). I can see some congruence between "main goal" and "very important." But, I think there can be differences in interpretation between "secondary goal" and "a little important" or between "I do not expect this" and "no goal." Thus, it is difficult to know if the differences between scales is due to a different number of items or to different labels.

REQUESTED REVISIONS:

As mentioned, the major problem is the confounding of the number of response alternatives with the response labels.

Are the methods appropriate and well described?
If not, please specify what is required in your comments to the authors.

No

Does the work include the necessary controls?
If not, please specify which controls are required in your comments to the authors.

No

Are the conclusions drawn adequately supported by the data shown?
If not, please explain in your comments to the authors.

No
Are you able to assess any statistics in the manuscript or would you recommend an additional statistical review?
If an additional statistical review is recommended, please specify what aspects require further assessment in your comments to the editors.

I am able to assess the statistics

Quality of written English
Please indicate the quality of language in the manuscript:
Acceptable

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