

Study of Undergraduate Student's Aggressive Driving Behavior: Cross Cultural Research (Thailand, Indonesia, Australia)

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Abstract

This study aimed: 1) To study the undergraduate students' aggressive driving behavior in Thailand, Indonesia and Australia; 2) to develop a standard measurement; 3) to compare the aggressive driving behavior in the same and different cultures; 4) to study a relationship between the aggressive driving behavior, driving confidence and the variables in the same and different cultures; and 5) to find out problems of measuring the aggressive driving behavior. The samples in this study were the students from three universities: Mahasarakham University, Thailand; Indonesia University of Education, Indonesia; and Monash University, Australia. The tool used in this study was Aggressive Driving Behavior Measurement with .85 of validity value. The statistics applied in the study were Percentage, Mean, Standard Deviation, T-test, and Variance Analysis.

The results of the study indicated that 1) most of the samples performed aggressively in driving at the middle level, 2) the degrees of the discrimination and the validity of an aggressive driving behavior measurement were in a high level, 3) in the same culture, male students had higher aggression than female students, the students with high academic achievement got lower rate of aggressive behavior than those with average academic achievement, and when we compared between Thailand and Indonesia, the higher the students' driving experience indicated the higher the aggressive driving behavior, and when comparing among different cultures, it indicated that the students with higher academic achievement in Thailand were more aggressive than those in Australia but not different from Indonesia; 4) in Thailand, the aggressive

driving behavior was positively related to an accident rate; in Indonesia, the behavior took negative relation to students' academic achievement but its relation to the driving experience was positive; and in Australia driving experience took a negative relation to the aggression of driving; and 5) there were few of measurement problems – incomplete answer due to the students' readiness or temper.

Key words: Aggressive driving behavior; Psychological assessment

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INTRODUCTION

Nowadays, most people have their own cars, motorbikes or other vehicles for traveling from one place to another. This is due to the development of economics and value. Thus, using those transportation in daily life is a normal life style of people in present society. However, the dark side of this is an increase of the vehicle causing aggressive personal behaviors which impact others.

Aggressive behavior impacts people and society. In terms of psychology, the violent aggressive behavior is considered as a problem since it happens according to uncontrollable mind.

The study of the behavior could make an understanding for being a guide to the behavior improvement. An aggressive behavior is complicated, physical and verbal aggression. In Buddhism, aggressive thinking is one of the aggressions that could be performed by a person; however, thinking is a convert behavior including both Active and Passive. Therefore, the aggressive behavior expressed has

its different level. It is a dangerous thing since it can cause or become a crime if people cannot adjust themselves with the situation.

Aggressive driving behavior, one of the aggressive behaviors which are mostly found in today's society causes social problem such as transportation, accident and death. The statistics of the death owing to the accidents during New Year 2007 showed that 449 people died, and 4,943 got hurt (Department of Disaster Prevention and Mitigation, 2007). Even though, the police tried very hard to prevent it, the accidents still increased. There might many factors result in accidents. One of it undoubtedly is an aggressive driving behavior (Chomeya, 2010, pp. 411-412).

In social study, a study of humanity and a cross culture study revealed that an aggression appears in all cultures but the behavior can be in control and if one learns how to do. The differences of each culture depend on kind of practice, motivation, or even regulation types. Each culture has its unity (Chotiban & Yolao, 1996). Thus, the study of more than two cultures focusing on connecting to an environment and cultural impacts to human beings' behavior can decrease limitations of a culture which appear mostly in behavioral science. What's more, this kind of study could help compare the study results in the same topic but different cultures which its conclusions could be similar or different.

In the United States and European countries, aggressive driving behavior tends to be new in psychological and behavioral science study which has been pragmatically studied. A cross culture study will lead to a standard and an effective behavioral knowledge application.

Therefore, the study on students' aggressive driving behavior in university: Cross cultural research aims to get an academic knowledge, idea, research development method or even applying the study results to develop a community.

OBJECTIVES

1. To study the university students' aggressive driving behavior in Thailand, Indonesia and Australia.
2. To develop a standard measurement.
3. To compare aggressive driving behavior in the same and different cultures.
4. To study a relationship between an aggressive driving behavior, driving confidence and the variables in the same and different cultures.
5. To study to find out problems of measuring the aggressive driving behavior.

HYPOTHESIS

1. The sample students' aggressive driving behaviors are gender, level of study, learning achievement, driving

confidence, driving experience, different experiences of having accident, which are different in the same culture then, compared in different cultures.

2. An aggressive driving behavior, driving confidence, driving experience, experiences of accident relate to each other not only in the same culture but the different one as well.

METHODS

The populations were bachelor degree students of Mahasarakham University: Thailand, Indonesia University of Education: Indonesia and Monash University: Australia, studying in semester 1, academic year 2011.

The samples were 450 bachelor degree students laid mostly by a budget (supported by Mahasarakham University budget). All of the samples could ride or drive a vehicle such as motorbike, car or three wheel car. They will be interviewed after the random.

This study consisted of independent variables including driving confidence, driving experience, experience of driving accident while the dependent variables were aggressive driving behavior, biosocial factors were gender, learning achievement.

DATA ANALYSIS

The studied hypothesis was proved as follows:

Mean and Standard Deviation were used for explaining the general data of the variables.

The Correlation Coefficient between the item score and the total score were applied to prove the tools' discrimination.

Alpha Coefficient was used for inspecting the tools' reliability.

One-Way ANOVA was used for inspecting the hypothesis.

Data was analyzed through Pearson Product Moment Correlation.

CONCLUSIONS

Most of the samples had an aggressive driving behavior at the medium level presented through doing which was different from Thailand. In Indonesia and Australia, the behavior was at the low level presented through a speech, imprecating or cursing.

The discrimination value of the measurement of an aggressive driving behavior in the three countries was in a high level. The discrimination and the reliability of Thailand were the highest.

Compared with the same culture, Thai and Indonesian men were more aggressive than women, while there was no difference between men and women in Australia. Smart students in Indonesia and Australia carried lower aggressive driving behaviors than the normal ones, but

pupils in Thailand were not different to each other. In Thailand and Australia, the samples who had more driving experience were more aggressive than ones who had less but it is in contrast in Australia. And the students who did not have different accident and the ones who had different driving confidence found no difference in aggressive driving behavior.

Most students had no relationship between aggressive driving behavior and any variable. In Thailand, the behavior had positive relationship with experience of having an accident. In Indonesia, the aggressive driving behavior carried a negative relationship with learning achievement but its relationship with the driving experience was positive. In Australia, the relationship between driving experience and aggressive driving behavior was negative.

Few problems of a measurement were from incomplete answer of the samples.

DISCUSSIONS

The study results revealed that different cultures caused different levels of aggressive driving behavior. How people behave depends on inner and outer factors, thus culture undoubtedly influences people. An aggressive driving behavior of the countries in the world is quite similar, showing being universal (Kornadt *et al.*, 1992). The aggression can be inspected by construction; performance or attitude. Now that it is universal, the aggression in any culture can be; therefore, correlated with each other.

The study results indicated that the discrimination and the reliability values of an aggressive driving behavior were quite different at a high level. Thailand had it highest since the country used a manuscript while other two countries used interpreted copies. The tools for measurement were effective. They were conducted based on thinking methods, theory and proved to meet the quality by considering content and structure reliabilities, discrimination, and reliability. The translation was also proved to meet the standard before trying.

The results of a comparison of students' aggressive driving behavior within the same culture could be concluded that gender, learning achievement, driving experience variables affected different level of aggression (Kornadt *et al.*, 1992). Any aggression in any culture had factors influencing on it including, aggression causes, being aggressive, gender or bias. The factors influencing over the behavior in some culture are being aggressive, motive, behavior, behavioral model and behavior control.

The comparison of aggressive driving behavior of different cultures indicated that samples were smart and the ones who had less driving experience carried different levels of aggression (Kornadt, Hayashi, Tachibana,

Trommsdorff, & Yamauchi, 1992). This was because the factors of each country were different such as economic status, income, career, law or even social structure and culture (Ozkan & Other, 2006, pp. 227-242; Warner, 2011, pp. 390-399).

The results on the study of a relationship between an aggressive driving behavior and some variables were different in each country. It is a fact that an aggression of people who are from different cultures is not similar since each culture contains its unity; the factors affecting the behavior are different as well.

The problems of a measurement were from just an incomplete answer of the samples because of their readiness or mental status while answering. This was because the details used for the measurement were culturally appropriate. What's more, they contained a standard and the researchers were thoroughly aware of what was going to be used for the measurement. Hence, any culture could apply them.

SUGGESTIONS

Suggestions for Applying:

The measurement forms that were developed in this study were standard. They can be applied with any aggressive driving behavior so as to be aware of driving problems in any country which can reflect the operation of accidental control.

The culture can indicate the aggressive driving behavior. Therefore, the discovered problems such as an increase of driving accidents, argument from aggressive driving behavior should be prevented.

Suggestions for Further Study:

The aggressive driving behavior factors related to the prediction should be studied in order to explain the aggressive driving behavior or find causes of being aggressive of any person who is from different culture so as to be profoundly aware of how each culture is similar or different.

The scope of studied population should be from various places and rates so as to be assure if the data is accurate while comparing among studied cultures which is very important to plan for preventing problems from driving.

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