

THE STUDY OF THE FACTOR STRUCTURE OF THE THAI VERSION OF GELOPH<15>

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Abstract: The present study was designed to investigate the factor structure of the Thai version of the GELOPH<15> scale in Thailand and test its reliability and validity via its relationship with measures of self-esteem and life satisfaction. The participants consisted of 210 Thai citizens (58 males, 152 females) aged over 18 years and willing to fill in the study's questionnaire. Exploratory factor analysis of the Thai version of GELOPH<15> yielded three factors (i.e., inability to deal with gelotophobia, negative reaction towards gelotophobia, and social avoidance) that are different from the original GELOPH<15> German version in which one dimension fit its data best and was identified by Ruch and Proyer (2008). Test of convergent validity showed that the GELOPH<15>'s three factors have negative correlation with self-esteem and life satisfaction. The analysis of demographic differences revealed that gender, age, and marital status have no significant effect on the three gelotophobia factors.

Keywords: GELOPH<15>, Gelotophobia, Life Satisfaction, Self-esteem.

Introduction

Most people fear being laughed at to some degree and do their best to avoid embarrassment; but there are those who have an intense and excessive fear of it. They have a hard time differentiating laughter because they always take laughter to be a form of ridicule and shy away from situations in which they might say or do something that would result in their being the target of laughter. For them, merely being around others who are talking and laughing can cause tension and apprehension. In the mid-1990s, an astute German psychologist, Michael Titze, recognized the problem for what it is: a debilitating fear of being laughed at. Since then, this phenomenon has attracted attention from scholars in psychology, sociology, and psychiatry. Even linguists and humor experts have examined this trait, technically known as *gelotophobia* – a term derived from two Greek words, *gelos* (γέλως) meaning “laughter” and *phobos* (φόβος) meaning “fear”. The first studies emerged from a clinical context (Titze, 2009) before moving to samples of the normal population (Ruch, Hofmann, Platt, & Proyer, 2013). According to Titze

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(2009), gelotophobia is a specific variant of shame-bound anxiety which can be traced back to childhood experiences of gelotophobes who used to experience intense and repeated exposure in the form of being bullied, put down, mocked, and ridiculed repeatedly in the past. Gelotophobia can cause many life issues by creating limited ways for victims to live their life such as avoiding social life because of their own negative perception towards society or their fear of being a victim again (Watson, 2014).

It is a reasonable assumption that gelotophobes can be found all over the world. Cultural variables are bound to play a role as countries differ in the perception of common ridicule as a form of social correction, sheer fun, or mockery. In a humor survey, Ruch (2002, as cited in Proyer, Ruch, Ali, et al., 2009) collected data from 39 countries and provided initial evidence on the global existence of the fear of being laughed at. The findings were later published in the scientific publication *Humor: International Journal of Humor Research*. These feelings differed from nation to nation; for example, people in Turkmenistan and Cambodia are likely to hide insecure feelings when they are around others' laughter. However, people in Iraq, Egypt, and Jordan who feel they have been victims before may avoid such situations. Within Europe, Britain is on the top whereas the incidence in the U.S. is about 14% slightly below that of Britain. Some Asian and African countries were high on the list. On the other hand, people in Finland were among the least likely to believe that people laughing in their presence were making fun of them. Only 8.5% of Finns compared to 80% of Thai participants believe that people laughing in their presence were making fun of them (Watson, 2014). Soon after, a team from the University of Zurich led a ground-breaking multinational research on gelotophobia to examine whether the fear of being laughed at can be assessed reliably and validly by means of a self-report instrument in different countries of the world. The GELOPH questionnaire was translated to the local language of the collaborator (42 languages) in total of 22,610 participants in 93 samples from 73 countries.

Objectives

In an attempt to explore gelotophobia in the Thai context since this is a conventional procedure to establish the psychometric properties of the scale. The accumulated empirical evidence shows that the GELOPH<15> scale is unidimensional, the 15 item scale yields a single. So, it seems like the scale is clearly not multidimensional based on the strong and consistent empirical evidence that demonstrates gelotophobia is a unidimensional construct.

In order to examine the relationship between gelotophobia and the psychosocial factors of self-esteem, life satisfaction, as well as demographic characteristics particularly among Thai people. The study was conducted at the recommendation of the GELOPH<15> scale authors who proposed that culture-specific dimensions need to be considered for the further exploration of cross-cultural differences in gelotophobia and that strong influences on gelotophobia (e.g., psychological and demographic factors) be examined in future empirical studies in more detail (Ruch & Proyer, 2008b).

Literature Review

Interestingly, the fear of being laughed at was mentioned in the context of shyness more than a hundred years ago by the French psychiatrist Paul Hartenberg (Platt, Ruch, Hofmann, & Proyer, 2012). Hartenberg described that among timid people, a combination of observable fear and shame, both groundless, is felt in the presence of other persons, which can be accompanied by physiological symptoms (e.g., trembling, blushing, disturbances in speech, etc.). Most importantly, one of the characteristics of timid people is the fear of ridicule (Platt et al., 2012). About 100 years later, Michael Titze, a German psychotherapist coined the term 'gelotophobia' based on his patients were persistently worried of being laughed at with an extreme paranoid tendency, a marked sensitivity to offence, and social withdrawal (Titze, 1996, as cited in Ruch, Proyer, & Pöpa, 2008).

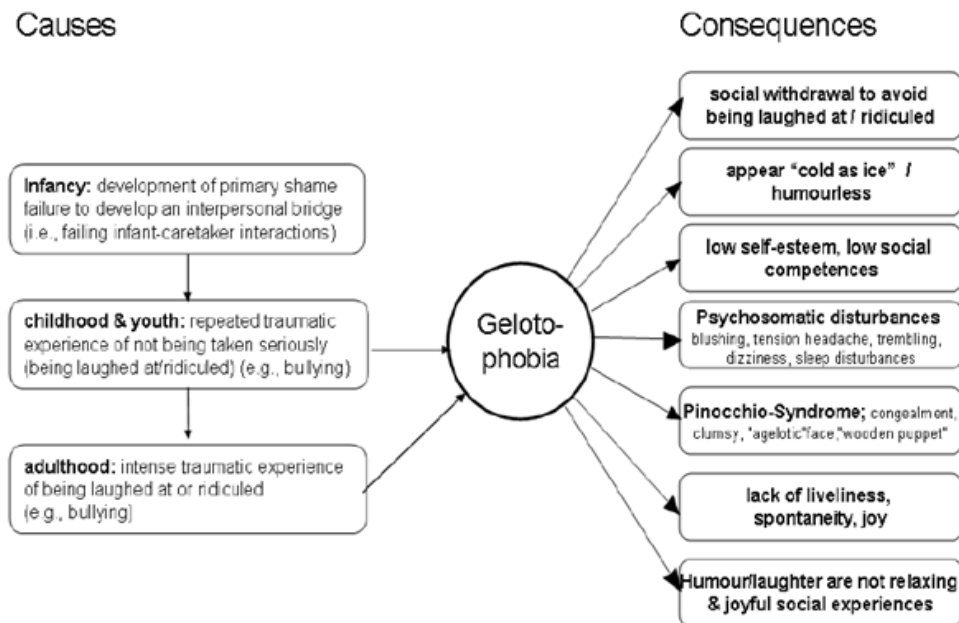


Figure 1: Putative Causes and Consequences of Gelotophobia as Proposed by Titze (Ruch, 2004, as Cited in Platt & Forabosco, 2011)

As can be gleaned from Figure 1, Titze's postulate is that gelotophobia originates from one of three types of events over a lifespan from infancy to adulthood. During infancy there can be a failure to develop an interpersonal bridge to the caregiver who experienced themselves as being unconnected to others (Kaufman, 1985). This problem continues with intense, repeated, and traumatic experiences and leads to the development of gelotophobia during adolescence and adulthood. The model also states the several consequences of gelotophobia; for example, social withdrawal, low social competences, lack of liveliness, spontaneity and joy, a 'cold as ice' appearance, and a lack of pleasurable effect due to the social aspects of humor and laughter.

As the results indicated inconsistencies in the relationship between the phenomenon and demographic characteristics, Kazarian et al. (2009) reported that gelotophobia are not related to age or sex. Similarly, Samson, Thibault, Proyer, and Ruch (2010) established that the fear of being laughed at was independent of the participants' age, sex, or marital status. In part concurrence with the latter, Proyer and Ruch (2010b) demonstrated that gelotophobia existed independently from the age of the participants while gender yielded a significant correlation coefficient. Radomski and Tomczak (as cited in Proyer & Ruch, 2010) argued that while biological sex has been studied in relation to gelotophobia, no attention has been paid to learned sex roles or psychological gender (e.g., low masculinity) as an important predictor of gelotophobia. The authors found psychological gender to be robustly related to the fear of being laughed at, whereas previous studies did indicate that biological gender does not contribute to the expression of gelotophobia. Additionally, Ruch and Proyer (2008b) mentioned that age and gender are not related to gelotophobia expression, while in terms of marital status, participants who are not in a relationship tend to score higher in gelotophobia. The results of a study by Platt et al. (2009) echoed the latter results; that is, gelotophobia existed independently from the age and gender of the participants; however, persons who were not in a relationship yielded higher scores. Using the Hebrew version of the same instrument used in the earlier studies (GELOPH<15>), it was demonstrated that gelotophobia was more prevalent among younger participants, females and, as in earlier studies, those who were not in a relationship (Sarid et al., 2011).

Self-deprecation, in contrast to self-promotion, is based on creating one's own image as a person who is incompetent, helpless, insecure, and responsible for one's own failures. This is connected with avoiding self-presentation risk in order to minimize the experience of shame or embarrassment and on concentrating on one's own faults. It is positively connected with low self-esteem (Wojciszke, 2002, as cited in Radomska & Tomczak, 2010). It could be that causes of gelotophobia could be traced back to interpersonal relations wherein gelotophobes anticipate that they will be incapable of making a specific self-presentational impression. It was suggested that preferred self-presentation style depends on the self-esteem of the subject. Persons that are self-critical, such as gelotophobes, usually restrict themselves to defending their self-image (Schutz, 2001, as cited in Radomska & Tomczak, 2010). The tendency to create one's own image as a modest person exaggeratedly by devaluing one's own achievements, being uncertain of one's own competences, and lacking resourcefulness seem to be characteristics of how gelotophobes think about themselves, and these reflect their low self-esteem. These people will avoid eye contact, not say much in public in order to avoid derision, and will tend to speak softly. They also lack assertiveness by showing signs of submissiveness and undertaking servile behaviors in relation to others (Ruch & Proyer, 2008a; Titze, 2009). Past research had demonstrated that a relationship exists between gelotophobia and the following: low self-esteem, low affiliative humor, low self-enhancing humor, and high self-defeating humor. Furthermore, the significant relationship between gelotophobia and self-esteem indicated that low

self-esteem scores may have signs of expressions of fear of laughter (Hiranandani, 2010).

The fear of being laughed at was found to be negatively related to life satisfaction in the three aforementioned countries. Gelotophobes describe themselves with lower overall estimations of their lives, and that gelotophobia is negatively correlated with life engagement, lower life of pleasure, and life of meaning which is similar to another study by Proyer, Ruch and Chen (2012). On the other hand, *Kazarian et al. (2009)* found *gelotophobia* failed to correlate with overall life satisfaction which is inconsistent with the significant negative correlations reported by Proyer et al. for samples from Austria, China, and Switzerland. A likely explanation for the discrepancy in findings is that predictors of overall life satisfaction are partly culture-bound rather than totally universal.

Conceptual Framework

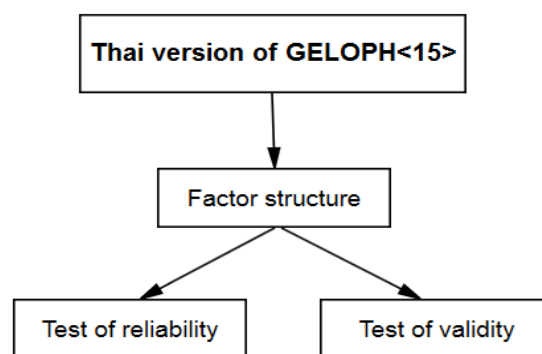


Figure 2: Conceptual Framework of The Study

Method/Procedure

Participants of the Study

A sample size of 210 was deemed sufficient to meet the objectives of this study. Both male and female Thai nationals aged over 18 years old of age.

Research Instrumentation

Permission to use the Thai version of the GELOPH<15> was sought prior to the use of the self-administered survey questionnaire. There were 30 items in total of four parts which did not require an excessive amount of time to complete.

Procedure

A data was conducted to check for and errors and readability. The participants of the current study were obtained by means of convenience sampling from different areas in metropolitan Bangkok such as universities, temples, and business offices in order to create variety in the participants' demographic characteristics.

Findings/Results

In terms of demographics, the total sample consisted of 210 participants (male: $n=58$, 27.6%; female: $n=152$, 72.4%). The participants' ages ranged from 18 to 61 years with a mean age of 30.89 years. In terms of their marital status, 137 participants (65.2%) reported that they were single, 20 participants (9.5%) reported that they were cohabiting, 44 participants (21%) reported that they were married, 5 participants (2.4%) reported that they were separated, and 4 participants (1.9%) reported that they were divorced.

Exploratory factor analysis

In conjunction with results obtained from the scree-plot, these findings suggested a three-factor solution: 37.403%, 8.578%, and 7.292% of the total variance, respectively, for a combined total of 53.273%. Of the 12 items, five loaded on Factor 1, three loaded on Factor 2, and four loaded on Factor 3. Factor 1 consisted of items that reflected the inability to deal effectively with gelotophobia; Factor 2 consisted of items that reflected negative reaction toward gelotophobia; and Factor 3 consisted of items that reflected social avoidance.

Table 1 shows the results of the exploratory factor analysis. The computed Cronbach's alpha coefficients for the three scales were adequate and ranged from .62 to .78. Examination of the Cronbach's alphas for the self-esteem and life satisfaction factors and their items' I-T correlations showed that two items (se7: *I feel that I'm a person of worth, at least on an equal plane with others*; and se8: *I wish I could have more respect for myself*) from the self-esteem scale have low corrected item-total correlation ($<.33$) and were deleted from this factor. Thus, the factor of 'self-esteem' is represented by 8 items, and the factor of 'life satisfaction' is represented by 5 items. The computed Cronbach's alpha coefficients for these two factors were adequate and ranged from .82 (life satisfaction) to .85 (self-esteem).

Table 1: Factor Loadings for the Three Gelotophobia Factors and Corrected Item-Total (I-T) Correlations for All Five Factors

	Factor loadings	I-T correlations
<u>Inability to deal effectively with gelotophobia</u>		
If someone has teased me in the past, I cannot deal freely with him forever. (g11)*	.89	.57
It takes me very long to recover from having been laughed at. (g12)*	.78	.69
If I did not fear making a fool of myself, I would speak much more in public. (g10)*	.64	.51
When I have made an embarrassing impression somewhere, I avoid the place thereafter. (g9)*	.58	.53
When I have made a fool of myself in front of others, I grow completely stiff and lose my ability to behave adequately. (g15)*	.49	.48
Cronbach's alpha = .78		

Table 1: Factor Loadings for the Three Gelotophobia Factors and Corrected Item-Total (I-T) Correlations for All Five Factors

	Factor loadings	I-T correlations
<u>Negative reaction toward gelotophobia</u>		
When strangers laugh in my presence, I often relate it to me personally. (g3)*	.57	.38
I control myself strongly in order not to attract negative attention so I do not make a ridiculous impression. (g6)*	.48	.50
When others make joking remarks about me, I feel being paralysed. (g5)*	.38	.41
Cronbach's alpha = .62		
<u>Social avoidance</u>		
I believe that I make, involuntarily, a funny impression on others. (g7)*	-.79	.42
It is difficult for me to hold eye contact because I fear being assessed in a disparaging way. (g4)*	-.64	.56
I avoid showing myself in public because I fear that people could become aware of my insecurity and could make fun of me. (g2)*	-.63	.51
Although I frequently feel lonely, I have the tendency not to share social activities in order to protect myself from derision. (g8)*	-.54	.52
Cronbach's alpha = .71		
	Corrected Item-Total Correlation	
<u>Self-esteem</u>		
On the whole, I am satisfied with myself. (se1)*		.44
At times, I think I am no good at all. (se2)*		.63
I feel that I have a number of good qualities. (se3)*		.56
I am able to do things as well as most other people. (se4)*		.55
I feel I do not have much to be proud of. (se5)*		.66
I certainly feel useless at times. (se6)*		.72
All in all, I am inclined to feel that I am a failure. (se9)*		.59
I take a positive attitude toward myself. (se10)*		.64
Cronbach's alpha = .85		
	Corrected Item-Total Correlation	
<u>Life satisfaction</u>		
In most ways, my life is close to my ideal. (sw11)*		.61
The conditions of my life are excellent. (sw12)*		.68
I am satisfied with my life. (sw13)*		.70
So far, I have gotten the important things I want in life. (sw14)*		.70
If I could live my life over, I would change almost nothing. (sw15)*		.48
Cronbach's alpha = .82		

*Items as numbered in questionnaire

Table 2 presents the means and standard deviations for the five computed factors. All three gelotophobia factors were rated below the mid-points (2.5) on their respective scales. Thus, overall, the participants rated themselves as low in gelotophobia while rated their levels of self-esteem and life satisfaction above their mid-points (self-esteem: midpoint=2.5; life satisfaction: midpoint= 4) on their respective scales. Thus, the respondents reported generally high levels of self-esteem and life satisfaction.

Table 2: Means and Standard Deviations for The Computed Factors of Inability to Deal Effectively with Gelotophobia, Negative Reaction toward Gelotophobia, Social Avoidance, Self-Esteem, and Life Satisfaction

	Mean	S.D.
Inability to deal effectively with gelotophobia	2.03	.66
Negative reaction toward gelotophobia	2.29	.69
Social avoidance	1.81	.62
Self- esteem	3.28	.46
Life satisfaction	4.83	1.08

Table 3 presents the results of Pearson's product-moment correlation analysis of the three gelotophobia factors are significantly and negatively correlated with the participants' reported level of self-esteem ($p<.001$), the lower their level of self-esteem. The findings also indicated that two of the three gelotophobia factors are significantly and negatively correlated with the participants' reported level of life satisfaction.

Table 3: Pearson's Product-Moment Correlation Coefficients between The Three Gelotophobia Factors and the Participants' Self-Esteem and Life Satisfaction Scales

	Self-esteem	Life satisfaction
Inability to deal effectively with gelotophobia	-.40***	-.25***
Negative reaction toward gelotophobia	-.26***	-.08
Social avoidance	-.44***	-.16*

* $p<.05$, *** $p<.001$

Table 4 presents the means and standard deviations for the five computed factors as a function of gender. The results showed that there was no overall gender effect for the five variables combined, $F(5,204)=0.826$, $p>.05$. Follow-up tests of between-subjects effects showed that gender has no significant effect for any of the five dependent variables of 'inability to deal effectively with gelotophobia', $F(1,208)=0.123$, $p>.05$, 'negative reaction toward gelotophobia', $F(1,208)=0.586$, $p>.05$, 'social avoidance', $F(1,208)=1.18$, $p>.05$, 'self-esteem', $F(1,208)=0.03$, $p>.05$, and 'life satisfaction', $F(1,208)=0.14$, $p>.05$. Examination of the marginal means show that male and female participants do not differ significantly on the three gelotophobia factors and their levels of self-esteem and life satisfaction ($p>.05$).

Table 4: Means and Standard Deviations for The Computed Factors of Inability to Deal Effectively with Gelotophobia, Negative Reaction toward Gelotophobia, Social Avoidance, Self-Esteem, and Life Satisfaction as A Function of Gender

	Males (N=58)		Females (N=152)	
	Mean	S.D.	Mean	S.D.
Inability to deal effectively with gelotophobia	2.05	.57	2.02	.69
Negative reaction toward gelotophobia	2.23	.52	2.31	.74
Social avoidance	1.88	.61	1.78	.62
Self-esteem	3.27	.45	3.28	.46
Life satisfaction	4.79	1.10	4.85	1.07

Table 5 presents the means and standard deviations for the five computed factors as a function of age. The MANOVA results showed that there was no overall age effect for the five variables combined, $F(5,204)=2.05$, $p>.05$. Follow-up tests of between-subjects effects showed that age has no significant effect for the three gelotophobia variables: 'inability to deal effectively with gelotophobia', $F(1,208)=0.148$, $p>.05$, 'negative reaction toward gelotophobia', $F(1,208)=0.234$, $p>.05$, 'social avoidance', $F(1,208)=0.376$, $p>.05$. Examination of the marginal means show that younger (18 to 28 years of age) and older (29 to 61 years of age) participants do not differ significantly on the three gelotophobia factors ($p>.05$).

The tests of between-subjects effects showed that age has significant effects for the factors of self-esteem and life satisfaction: 'self-esteem', $F(1,208)=6.54$, $p<.05$, 'life satisfaction', $F(1,208)=8.06$, $p<.01$. Examination of the marginal means show that older participants (29 to 61 years of age) reported higher levels of self-esteem ($M=3.36$) and life satisfaction ($M=5.04$) than their younger counterparts (self-esteem: $M=3.20$; life satisfaction: $M=4.63$).

Table 5: Means and Standard Deviations for The Computed Factors of Inability to Deal Effectively with Gelotophobia, Negative Reaction toward Gelotophobia, Social Avoidance, Self-Esteem, and Life Satisfaction as A Function of Age

	18 to 28 years (N=107)		29 to 61 years (N=103)	
	Mean	S.D.	Mean	S.D.
Inability to deal effectively with gelotophobia	2.04	.67	2.01	.65
Negative reaction toward gelotophobia	2.31	.69	2.27	.69
Social avoidance	1.83	.66	1.78	.57
Self-esteem	3.20	.48	3.36	.43
Life satisfaction	4.63	1.07	5.04	1.05

Table 6 presents the means and standard deviations for the five computed factors as a function of the participants' marital status. The MANOVA results showed that there was no overall marital status effect for the five variables combined, $F(5,204)=2.25$, $p>.05$. Follow-up tests of between-subjects effects showed that marital status has no significant effect for the three gelotophobia variables and level of self-esteem: 'inability to deal effectively with gelotophobia',

$F(1,208)=0.305$, $p>.05$, ‘negative reaction toward gelotophobia’, $F(1,208)=0.464$, $p>.05$, ‘social avoidance’, $F(1,208)=0.665$, $p>.05$, and ‘self-esteem’, $F(1,208)=2.207$, $p>.05$. Examination of the marginal means show that single participants and those who are married, cohabiting, or have been married before (separated, divorced) do not differ significantly on the three gelotophobia factors and in their level of self-esteem ($p>.05$).

The tests of between-subjects effects results showed that marital status has a significant effect for the factor of life satisfaction: ‘life satisfaction’, $F(1,208)=8.70$, $p<.01$. Examination of the marginal means show that participants who are married, cohabiting, or have been married before (separated, divorced) reported higher level of life satisfaction ($M=5.13$) than their single counterparts ($M=4.67$).

Table 6: Means and Standard Deviations for The Computed Factors of Inability to Deal Effectively with Gelotophobia, Negative Reaction toward Gelotophobia, Social Avoidance, Self-Esteem, and Life Satisfaction as A Function of Marital Status

	Single ($N=137$)		Married, Cohabit, Separated, Divorced ($N=103$)	
	Mean	S.D.	Mean	S.D.
Inability to deal effectively with gelotophobia	2.01	.63	2.06	.72
Negative reaction toward gelotophobia	2.27	.70	2.33	.67
Social avoidance	1.78	.61	1.86	.63
Self-esteem	3.24	.47	3.34	.44
Life satisfaction	4.67	1.08	5.13	1.00

Discussion

Overall, it can be concluded that the Thai version of the GELOPH<15> is a useful and reliable instrument for the assessment for use with Thai populations. A possible reason for three factors were used instead of a one-dimensional solution is based on Hofstede’s dimension of ‘individualism-collectivism’; that is Thailand is seen to be a collectivist nation while most of the studies using the one-factor solution are individualistic countries such as England, Spain, Denmark, and most German-speaking nations.

The convergent validity of the GELOPH<15>’s Thai version, the three gelotophobia factors were found be negatively correlated with self-esteem and life satisfaction which is consistent with the study of Neelam Arjan and Yue (2014) about gelotophobia and self-esteem among Chinese and Indians in Hongkong and also the study of Proyer et al. (in press) about gelotophobia and life satisfaction in Austria, China, and Switzerland. Thais score high on collectivism; hence, gelotophobia is not expected to have a positive correlation with self-esteem and life satisfaction because self-esteem is an important construct for collectivistic cultures (Hojat et al., 1990; Rudy & Grusec, 2006). Veron et al. (2009) posited that Thais have high self-esteem and use healthier styles of humor. Thai people are likely to be affected by contextual factors such as culture, religion, family, economy, and

political stability rather than internal attributes like fear or anxiety. Ruch et al. (2009) revealed that gelotophobia was found to be negatively related to hope, optimism, curiosity, bravery, love, and zest which were deemed to be highly related to satisfaction with life. (Peterson et al., 2007), overall results indicate that there is a negative relationship between gelotophobia and general well-being.

It had been demonstrated that gelotophobia exists independently from demographics which collectively support the current findings (e.g. Ruch & Proyer, 2008a, 2008b; Kamble et al., 2014; Kazarian et al.; Ruch & Proyer, 2009; Samson, Thibault, Proyer, & Ruch, 2010; Stefanenko, Ivanova, Enikolopov, Proyer, & Ruch, 2011). One possible explanation could be attributed to cultural factors and social patterns based on the study of McCann, Honeycutt, and Keaton (2010), Thai participants scored highest on the dimension of 'horizontal collectivism'. Whereas horizontal collectivism denotes how people merge with others in various in-groups (e.g., family members, work colleagues) but feel no sense of subordination to anyone in these in-groups (Triandis, Chen, & Chan, 1998). Thus, more in-depth studies on the impact of factors such as economy, religion, and culture on Thai social patterns are needed.

The current finding that gender difference has no significant influence on the fear of being laughed may be due to the change in Thai women's role since the global economic crisis in 1997; that is, the number of single and married women who started working outside the household to support the family increased significantly (De Jong, 2000). Thus, seeing both parents working to support the family may change the perception of gender role among the new Thai generation (Burgess, Yaoyuneyong, & Gibbs, 2014).

As to the matter of age differences, age has significant effects on self-esteem and life satisfaction but has no significant effect on gelotophobia. The participants aged between 29 to 61 years reported higher levels of self-esteem and life satisfaction than their younger counterparts. The result is consistent with that of Orth, Robins, and Trzesniewski (2010) in that self-esteem increases during young and middle adulthood and could reach a peak at about 60 years of age. Since self-esteem is important in a collectivistic culture such as Thailand, Thai people tend to have a high level of self-esteem. This phenomenon can be compared to the results of previous studies about self-esteem having a positive effect as an intervening variable on the relationship between life satisfaction and other well-being indicators (e.g., Chang, 2001; Çivitci & Çivitci, 2009; Estévez et al., 2008). Another possible explanation may be attributed to respect for seniority which has been an integral part of collectivistic Thai culture; children have been taught to respect adults including those outside the family in order to not causing their family to 'lose face' (feel shame or disappointment) in public in order to belong and accepted by their in-group.

With regard to marital status differences in gelotophobia, it was found that marital status has no significant effect on gelotophobia and self-esteem but showed some link with life satisfaction with the findings of Stack and Eshleman (1998) who reported that marriage is associated with higher levels of financial satisfaction and health which could contribute toward higher levels of life satisfaction. Moreover, collectivist individual tends to gain respect and emotional support from his or her

in-group (e.g., spouse, partner, etc.), compared to an individualistic person who could be found in English and German (individualistic) single persons tend to have higher level of gelotophobia.

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