

The Indonesian Cyberstalking Scale: Adaptation and Psychometric Properties

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ABSTRACT

The development of technology has both positive and negative impacts. Among them is doing negative behavior as a form of stalking in the cyber world. The purpose of this study is to adapt and validate the Cyberstalking scale developed by Santos, et al (2023). Cyberstalking measurement tools are important to be researched in Indonesia to measure the level of cyberstalking behavior in the cyber world carried out by late adolescent individuals so that they can provide appropriate interventions and support as a coaching effort for cyberstalking perpetrators. This study was conducted online with late adolescents aged 18-22 years in Indonesia. There were 153 participants. The results of confirmatory factor analysis (CFA) showed good model fit (CFI = .952, GFI = .991, TLI = .933, SRMR = .064, RMSEA = .074). In addition, the study showed that the 10-item cyberstalking scale had fairly good internal consistency ($\alpha = 0.890$).

Keywords: *cyberstalking, late adolescent, media sosial, confirmatory factor analysis*

Introduction

In the growing digital era, the internet is the main medium of communication. Internet connectivity has provided convenience in daily life with various communication media. However, on the other hand, the internet also poses a threat to its users with the emergence of various crimes, including cyber harassment, cyberbullying, and even cyberstalking. Cyber harassment refers to any form of inappropriate and threatening online behavior with the aim of making someone feel uncomfortable or threatened. Cyberstalking aims to monitor a person's online activities, terror calls or chats, even the establishment of accounts so that there are many fake or anonymous accounts, false accusations, identity theft, and so on. Meanwhile, cyber bullying is an action that aims to intimidate, humiliate, threaten someone using technology (Trevino, 2023).

In social research, Lapshin and Klimakov compared the difference between stalking and bullying is that bullying behavior usually consists of actions that can each be classified as socially unacceptable (Lapshin & Klimakov, 2019). Whereas stalking is a much more difficult act and is more subtle in its actions, making it seem more socially acceptable. Lapshin and Klimakov also reveal that one of the most distinctive features that distinguishes cyberstalking from cyberbullying is that cyberstalking is in many cases a subset of traditional or offline stalking that serves the same purpose. Demographically, women aged 18-29 are

more frequently targeted for cyberstalking than any other social group. This is because young women are physically and psychosocially more vulnerable than others.

Based on previous research that examines the phenomenon of cyberstalking in Indonesia and is related to the consequences of playing online games, the results of this qualitative research show that there is still a lack of understanding of the phenomenon of cyberstalking in Indonesia. In addition, cyberstalking itself involves one aspect, namely online gaming, which is caused by a sense of security because users become anonymous or anonymous so that the perpetrator feels that whatever he does will not have consequences for either himself or the victim (Afif, 2022). Similar to traditional stalking, cyberstalking can be perpetrated by a stranger as well as someone the victim has had or is currently in contact with (Horsman & Conniss, 2015 in Santos et al., 2023). The main difference is that cyberstalking seems to be common among acquaintances, especially between couples, and can be done in a subtle and socially acceptable way. This is in line with previous research, so subsequent cross-national studies have investigated and developed a cyberstalking scale (Santos et al., 2023). The results showed that the cyberstalking scale was valid and reliable with an adequate one-factor model (GFI = 0.98; CFI = 0.99; TLI = 0.99; RMSEA = 0.02; SRMR = 0.06).

According to the Indonesian Internet Service Providers Association, internet users in Indonesia in 2024 increased by 1.4% compared to the previous year (APJII, 2024). This will indirectly lead to an increase in cybercrime (Permatasari, 2021). Previous research on cybersecurity in Indonesia also revealed that regulations regarding cyberstalking in Indonesia are still very common and have minimal enforcement, this is due to the difficulty of finding the perpetrators directly because the majority of the perpetrators use anonymous accounts on social media and are unclear about the limits of consent to the use of social media accounts related to the input of valid personal data by account owners (Fadilah et al., 2021). In addition to the lack of understanding and knowledge about cyberstalking, the literature in Indonesia still focuses on legal aspects and there is no research that refers to the psychological aspects of cyberstalking perpetrators. Psychologically, cyberstalking can have a serious impact on the mental health of the perpetrator, such as increased aggression, lack of empathy, dependence on technology, and can even endanger others. Based on this, a measuring tool is needed that can be used to see the behaviors that are included in the aspects of cyberstalking. Referring to the previous cyberstalking scale by Santos (2023), this study aims to adapt the cyberstalking scale to Indonesia to be used as a reference in cyberstalking behavior, especially in the psychological aspect in Indonesia. The measuring instrument can be used in identifying behavior and providing appropriate intervention and support as a coaching effort for cyberstalking perpetrators. The use of Portuguese measuring instruments may not accommodate the unique cultural aspects of the social context in Indonesia. Meanwhile, research that specifically examines cyberstalking in late adolescents in Indonesia has not been found.

Methods

Development of Measurement Tools

The first stage, the researcher translated the framework and process of adapting the cyberstalking measuring instrument in accordance with the technical procedures provided

by Beaton et al. (2000), namely: (1) Translation (2) Synthesis (3) Back-translation (4) Expert Committee Review (5) Test of the Pre-Final Version. In the second stage, researchers tested Psychometric properties, namely construct validity with Confirmatory Factor Analysis (CFA) and reliability using internal consistency Cronbach Alpha with the help of the JASP program.

Data Collection

The participants in this study are 153 individuals aged 18-22 years who are included in the late adolescent developmental stage. The age selection of 18-22 years is based on Santrock (2003) that the age of late adolescence is 18-22 years. The inclusion criteria are that participants are active users of social media. The sampling technique in this study was purposive sampling, which is a technique of taking data sources by setting certain criteria for certain considerations (Sugiyono, 2016). Data collection is done online using google form media.

Table 1 *Respondent demographic data*

Variables	Category	Frequency
Gender	Male	122
	Female	31
Age	18 years old	13
	19 years old	5
	20 years old	20
	21 years old	47
	22 years old	68
Last Education	SMA/K	115
	D3	2
	S1	36
Employment Status	Student	109
	Private Employee	34
	Entrepreneurship	4
	Not Working	6

Instrument

Cyberstalking was measured using a scale reconstructed from the cyberstalking process by Santos, et al. (2023) which measures three different aspects, namely 1) involving surveillance, harassment or attempts to control past, current, or desired partners through communication technology (Romantic relationships (past, current, and desired)) 2) acts of harassment, intimidation or surveillance of friends, coworkers or acquaintances through

social media or other communication platforms. (Persecution of acquaintances) 3) The spreading of slander, threats, surveillance or damaging actions against suspected or disliked individuals even though there is no prior personal relationship (People that the perpetrator suspects dislikes)

The results of the preparation of the cyberstalking scale by Santos, et al (2023) tested in this study were 10 items with details of 5 items of romantic relationships, 2 items of persecution of acquaintances, and 3 items of people suspected / liked by the perpetrator. Intention of cyberstalking behavior is operationalized by the total score obtained. The total score was obtained by measurement using a Likert scale. The Likert scale consists of 1 (disagree) to 5 (strongly agree).

Result and Discussions

Stage One - Instrument Adaptation

Translation - In translating the English measurement tool into Bahasa Indonesia, the researcher involved two translators. Translator 1 was from a sworn translation agency and translator 2 was a psychologist. The translators were asked to independently translate the 10 items of the cyberstalking scale. The instruction to the translator was "Translate these statements into Bahasa Indonesia". This process resulted in the translations of translator 1 (T1) and translator 2 (T2).

Synthesis - The results of T1 and T2 were searched for similarities and differences until an agreed translation result was obtained. Researchers considered the suitability with the theoretical concept of cyberstalking and the appropriateness of Indonesian EYD. The final result of the synthesis is symbolized T12. The following table 1 shows the original scale items and the synthesized results (T12).

Table 2. Example of Synthesis of T1 and T2 (T12) cyberstalking scale items

No.	Original	T1	T2	T12
1	<i>I usually <u>find</u> the social media of someone I'm interested in, even if it takes hours</i>	Saya biasanya <u>mencari</u> media sosial seseorang yang saya sukai, bahkan jika itu memakan waktu berjam-jam	Saya biasanya <u>menemukan</u> media sosial seseorang yang menarik bagi saya, meskipun pencarian itu butuh waktu berjam-jam	Saya biasanya <u>mencari</u> media sosial seseorang yang menarik bagi saya, meskipun pencarian itu membutuhkan waktu berjam-jam
2	<i>If I had my partner's social media <u>password</u>, life would feel much <u>easier</u>.</i>	Jika saya memiliki <u>kata sandi</u> media sosial pasangan saya, hidup saya akan lebih <u>mudah</u> .	Jika saya memiliki <u>password</u> media sosial pasangan saya, hidup rasanya akan menjadi lebih <u>mudah</u>	Jika saya memiliki <u>password</u> media sosial pasangan saya, hidup rasanya akan menjadi lebih <u>mudah</u>
3	<i>If I <u>could</u>, I would look at my partner's social media search history.</i>	Jika <u>bisa</u> , saya akan melihat riwayat penelusuran media sosial pasangan saya.	Jika <u>diperbolehkan</u> , saya akan melihat riwayat penelusuran pasangan saya	Jika <u>bisa</u> , saya akan melihat riwayat penelusuran media sosial pasangan saya
4	<i>I check the <u>types</u> of</i>			

	<i>apps my partner uses on their phone.</i>	Saya memeriksa <u>jenis aplikasi</u> yang digunakan pasangan saya di <u>telepon mereka</u> .	Saya memeriksa <u>jenis aplikasi</u> yang digunakan pasangan saya di <u>ponselnya</u>	Saya memeriksa <u>jenis aplikasi</u> yang digunakan pasangan saya di <u>ponselnya</u>
5	<i>When you are interested in someone, it is not wrong to look at the social media of their acquaintances to get to know the person better</i>	<u>Ketika Anda</u> tertarik pada seseorang, <u>tidak salah</u> untuk melihat media sosial kenalan mereka, untuk lebih mengenal orang tersebut.	<u>Bagi saya</u> , saat sedang tertarik dengan seseorang, <u>tak ada salahnya</u> untuk melihat media sosial kenalannya, agar saya bisa mengenalnya lebih jauh.	<u>Ketika Anda</u> tertarik pada seseorang, <u>tidak salah</u> untuk melihat media sosial kenalan mereka, untuk lebih mengenal orang tersebut.
6	<i>I lose track of time when searching for information about my acquaintances on the internet.</i>	Saya <u>lupa waktu</u> saat mencari informasi tentang kenalan saya di internet.	Saya <u>lupa waktu</u> mencari informasi tentang kenalan saya di internet.	Saya <u>lupa waktu</u> saat mencari informasi tentang kenalan saya di internet
7	<i>If someone hides their messages, I look for other ways to find out their content</i>	Jika seseorang menyembunyikan <u>pesan mereka</u> , saya mencari cara lain untuk mengetahui isinya.	Jika seseorang menyembunyikan <u>pesannya</u> , saya mencari cara lain untuk mengetahui isinya	Jika seseorang menyembunyikan <u>pesan mereka</u> , saya mencari cara lain untuk mengetahui isinya
8	<i>It is okay to check who likes and comments on your partner's posts</i>	Tidak <u>masalah</u> untuk memeriksa siapa yang menyukai dan mengomentari postingan pasangan Anda.	<u>Bagi saya</u> , tidak <u>masalah</u> untuk memeriksa siapa yang menyukai dan mengomentari postingan pasangan saya	Tidak <u>masalah</u> untuk memeriksa siapa yang menyukai dan mengomentari postingan pasangan Anda
9	<i>It is normal to "keep an eye on" the social media of someone who often interacts with your partner</i>	<u>Normal</u> untuk "mengawasi" media sosial seseorang yang sering berinteraksi dengan pasangan Anda.	"Mengawasi" media sosial seseorang yang sering berinteraksi dengan pasangan adalah hal yang <u>wajar</u>	<u>Normal</u> untuk "mengawasi" media sosial seseorang yang sering berinteraksi dengan pasangan Anda
10	<i>I prefer to have relationships with people I can investigate on social media.</i>	Saya lebih memilih membentuk hubungan dengan orang yang bisa saya <u>telusuri</u> di media sosial.	Saya lebih suka menjalin hubungan dengan orang-orang yang dapat saya <u>selidiki</u> di media sosial	Saya lebih suka menjalin hubungan dengan orang-orang yang dapat saya <u>selidiki</u> di media sosial

Underline = problematic words, T1 = Translator 1, T2 = Translator 2, T12 = Synthesized results of T1 and T2 **Back**

Translation - After synthesizing the translation results, T12 was back translated into English by an independent translation agency. The back-translated results were then compared with the original scale by the researcher whether there was a difference in meaning between the back-translated results and the original scale.

Expert Committee Review – After going through the back translator stage, the researcher concluded the final items to be discussed with experts. There were four experts consisting of psychological scientists and psychologists. The experts were asked to see the suitability of the content of the items with the concept and the suitability of the use of good and correct Indonesian language. The Aiken V validity coefficient moves from 0.625 to 1, there are 4 items (item numbers 5, 6, 8 and 9) below 0.88 below the limit value of the Aiken V validity coefficient (Aiken, 1985). The researcher retained the four items because the content of the items was still relevant to the purpose of the measure. The results of discussions with the four experts showed that there was no difference in meaning between T12 and the original item. There are only minor differences that are not in accordance with the rules in Indonesian grammar for example in item number 9 can be seen in the word "normal" placement at the beginning of the sentence or the end of the sentence. Since this research refers to the rules of Indonesian grammar, it is more appropriate to translate the word "normal" at the end of the sentence.

Table 3. *Adaptation process on the cyberstalking scale*

No	Original	BT	Expert Comment	Final Synthesis
1	<i>I usually <u>find</u> the social media of someone I'm interested in, even if it takes hours</i>	<i>I usually <u>search</u> through the social media of someone who interests me even though the search takes hours.</i>	<i>Saya biasanya <u>mencari</u> akun media sosial seseorang.</i>	<i>Saya biasanya <u>mencari</u> media sosial seseorang yang menarik bagi saya, meskipun pencarian itu membutuhkan waktu berjam-jam.</i>
2	<i>If I had my partner's social media password, life would feel much <u>easier</u>.</i>	<i>If I had my partner's social media password, life would feel much <u>easier</u>.</i>	<i>Jika saya memiliki password media sosial pasangan saya, hidup saya rasanya akan lebih <u>tenang</u></i>	<i>Jika saya memiliki password media sosial pasangan saya, hidup rasanya akan menjadi lebih <u>mudah</u>.</i>
3	<i>If I could, I would look at my partner's social media search history.</i>	<i>If I could, I would look at my partner's social media search history.</i>	<i>Jika bisa, saya akan melihat riwayat penelusuran media sosial pasangan saya</i>	<i>Jika bisa, saya akan melihat riwayat penelusuran media sosial pasangan saya.</i>
4	<i>I check the <u>types of apps</u> my partner uses on their phone.</i>	<i>I check the <u>types of apps</u> my partner uses on their phone.</i>	<i>Saya memeriksa <u>jenis-jenis aplikasi</u> yang digunakan pasangan saya di ponselnya</i>	<i>Saya memeriksa <u>aplikasi</u> di ponsel pasangan saya</i>
5.	<i>When you are interested in someone, <u>it is not wrong</u> to look at the social media of their acquaintances to get to</i>	<i>When you are interested in someone, <u>it is not wrong</u> to look at the social media of their acquaintances to</i>	<i>Ketika Anda tertarik pada seseorang, <u>tidak salah</u> untuk melihat media sosial dari kenalan mereka, untuk lebih</i>	<i>Ketika Anda tertarik pada seseorang, <u>tidak ada salahnya</u> untuk melihat media sosial kenalan mereka, untuk lebih</i>

	<i>know the person better.</i>	<i>get to know the person better.</i>	<i>mengenal orang tersebut</i>	<i>mengenal orang tersebut.</i>
6.	<i>I lose track of time when searching for information about my acquaintances on the internet.</i>	<i>I lose track of time when searching for information about my acquaintances on the internet.</i>	<i>Saya menjadi lupa waktu saat mencari informasi tentang kenalan saya di internet</i>	<i>Saya menjadi lupa waktu ketika mencari informasi tentang kenalan saya di internet.</i>
7.	<i>If someone hides their messages, I look for <u>other ways</u> to find out their content.</i>	<i>If someone hides their messages, I look for <u>other ways</u> to find out their content.</i>	<i>Jika seseorang menyembunyikan pesan mereka, saya mencari <u>cara lain</u> untuk mengetahui isinya</i>	<i>Jika seseorang menyembunyikan pesan mereka, saya mencari <u>cara</u> untuk mengetahui isinya.</i>
8.	<i>It is okay to check <u>who likes and comments on your partner's posts</u></i>	<i>It is okay to check <u>who likes and comments on your partner's posts.</u></i>	<i>Tidak masalah untuk memeriksa <u>siapa yang menyukai dan mengomentari postingan pasangan Anda</u></i>	<i>Tidak masalah untuk memeriksa <u>siapa saja yang menyukai dan mengomentari postingan pasangan Anda.</u></i>
9.	<i>It is <u>normal</u> to "keep an eye on" the socialmedia of someone who often interacts with your partner</i>	<i>It is <u>normal</u> to "keep an eye on" the socialmedia of someone who often interacts with your partner.</i>	<i><u>Normal</u> untuk "mengawasi" media sosial seseorang yang sering berinteraksi dengan pasangan Anda</i>	<i>Mengawasi orang-orang yang berinteraksi dengan pasangan anda melalui media sosial adalah <u>hal yang normal.</u></i>
10.	<i>I prefer to have relationships with people I can <u>investigate</u> on social media.</i>	<i>I prefer to have relationships with people I can <u>investigate</u> on social media.</i>	<i>Saya lebih suka menjalin hubungan dengan orang-orang yang dapat saya <u>selidiki</u> di media sosial</i>	<i>Saya lebih suka menjalin hubungan dengan orang-orang yang dapat saya <u>lacak</u> di media sosial.</i>

Underline = problematic words, BT = Back Translator

Test of the Pre-Final Version - Pre-final scale readability testing was conducted on 8 respondents each representing late adolescents aged 18-22. In general, items can be understood well and easily. There are additions and subtractions of words on some items. Instrument improvements were made for 6 items. In the format of the other 4 items, there were no improvements that changed the substance, because there were no complaints about fundamental errors.

Stage Two - Psychometric properties

Reliability

Based on the results of the reliability test conducted, the Cronbach's Alpha results for the first factor, Romantic relationships (past, current, and desired) (R) with R1 of .851, R2 of .836, R3 of .825, R4 of .838, and R5 of .857. The second factor, Persecution of acquaintances (P) with items P1 of .846 and P2 of .836. While the third factor, People that the perpetrator suspects/dislikes (S) with items S1 of .853, S2 of .841, S3 of .841. The overall scale reliability was obtained with Cronbach's Alpha of .887. This shows the value obtained from the cyberstalking scale has a fairly good internal consistency.

Table 4. Reliability Estimation

Aspect	Item	Cronbach's α
<i>Romantic relationships (past, current, and desired) (R)</i>	R1.	.851
	R2	.836
<i>Persecution of acquaintances (P)</i>	R3	.825
	R4	.838
<i>People that the perpetrator suspects/ dislikes (S)</i>	R5	.857
	P1	.846
	P2	.836
	S1	.853
	S2	.841
	S3	.841

The results of the reliability test can be seen in Table 4. The analysis results show that all items have an r value above .30, so it can be concluded that each item in this scale has a good function and can play a role in distinguishing individuals in the measured construct.

Confirmatory Factor Analysis (CFA)

Construct validity testing was conducted with Confirmatory Factor Analysis (CFA) to obtain evidence of the internal structure of the cyberstalking scale items. This stage is carried out with the aim of doing CFA is to confirm the theory and suitability of the theory and the items compiled. In order to test the accuracy of the model, the parameters used are CFI (Comparative Fit Index), GFI (*Goodness of Fit Index*), TLI (Tucker-Lewis Index), SRMR (Standardized Root Mean Square) and RMSEA (Root Mean Square Error of Approximation).

Table 5. Model Accuracy Test Results

Estimation	Criteria	Result	Description
<i>Chi-Square</i>	$P > .05$	$p < .001$	<i>Not fit</i>
<i>RMSEA</i>	$< .08$	0.074	<i>Good fit</i>
<i>Goodness of Fit Index (GFI)</i>	$\geq .90$.991	<i>Good fit</i>
<i>SRMR</i>	$< .08$	0.064	<i>Good fit</i>
<i>CFI</i>	$\geq .90$	0.952	<i>Good fit</i>
<i>TLI</i>	≥ 0.90	0.933	<i>Good fit</i>

According to Cudeck & Browne (1993) RMSEA values smaller than 0.08 indicate acceptable fit and values greater than 0.1 should lead to rejection. A good CFI value is more than 0.90 (Bentler, 1990; Hooper et al., 2008). Then, the TLI value is standardized at 0.8 to 0.9. Values above 0.9 are considered good model accuracy (Bentler & Bonner, 1980; Istiqomah, 2022). A good Goodness of Fit Index (GFI) value is more than 0.90. Based on the results of the model accuracy test above, it shows that the CFI and TLI values obtained are 0.952 and 0.933. In addition, the SRMR and RMSEA values are 0.064 and 0.074. And the GFI value is 0.991.

The results of testing the accuracy of the model above indicate that the accuracy of the model on this cyberstalking scale is classified as good. This can be seen based on the CFI, GFI and TLI values >.9 and the SRMR and RMSEA values < .08. The X2 value is 58.539 which indicates significant. This can occur because of the large sample of this study so that it has high statistical power. However, the validity of the model can still be seen and determined based on good CFI, GFI, TLI, SRMR, and RMSEA values.

Table 6. Factor loading of Indonesian version of *Cyberstalking*

Factor	Indicator	Std. Estimate
Romantic Relationship	R1	0.461
	R2	0.806
	R3	0.936
	R4	0.761
	R5	0.285
Persecution Acquitances	P1	0.555
	P2	0.753
People Perpetrator Suspect	S1	0.494
	S2	0.705
	S3	0.728

The results of the factor loading of the Indonesian version of Cyberstalking in the CFA analysis showed that the romantic relationship factor ranged from 0.285 - 0.936; persecution acquitances ranged from 0.555 - 0.753, and people perpetrator suspect ranged from 0.494 - 0.728. This means that almost all items have factor loading values above 0.4. Only item R5 has a factor loading below 0.4, which is 0.285. However, this is considered to interfere with or reduce the overall quality of Cyberstalking. So that item R5 is still maintained even though it has a loading factor value below 0.4. It can be concluded that the Indonesian version of Cyberstalking has good construct validation by paying attention to the goodness of fit model.

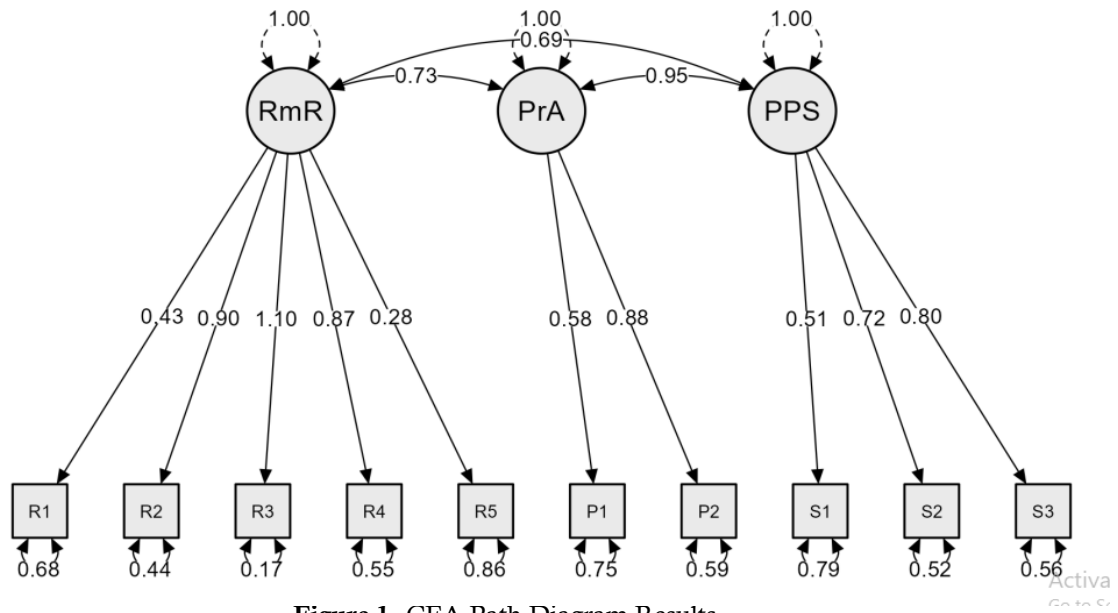


Figure 1. CFA Path Diagram Results

This study aimed to develop and validate a cyberstalking scale previously developed by Santos, et al (2023). Overall, the results of this study indicate that the developed cyberstalking scale has good psychometric properties. This can be seen from good internal consistency ($\alpha = 0.890$), item-total correlation with $r > 0.30$ on each item, good internal structure with factor loading ranging from 0.461 to 0.728, and good model fit on CFI, GFI, TLI, SRMR, and RMSEA. The results of this study are in accordance with the theory built by Santors, et al (2023) that the cyberstalking scale construct consists of three aspects, namely Romantic relationships (past, current, and desired), Persecution of acquaintances, People that the perpetrator suspects/dislike.

Conclusion

The conclusion of this study shows empirical evidence of the development of a cyberstalking scale has good psychometric properties. The results of this cyberstalking scale development research in Indonesian language and culture are in accordance with the results of the Cyberstalking scale development research by Santor, et al (2023) which concluded that this study did not escape from various shortcomings. First, this study has not further examined the correlation of the cyberstalking scale with other scales, such as the cyberbullying scale. Second, this scale is limited to the largest segmentation of students in Indonesia, so it is less representative of the population who are not the two groups. Third, the collection of research subjects was carried out randomly without paying attention to the proportional origin of the respondent's region, so that this research data has not represented proportionally from all regions in Indonesia.

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