Introduction

In Part 1 we have seen that the multitrait multimethod approach has many difficulties. Nevertheless, this model has been chosen because of the information which can be obtained with it. Consequently, in the studies repeated observations will have to be made for the same items using different methods. We anticipate that this will lead to problems. In the MTMM model it is assumed that the different observed variables for the same traits do not affect each other. Memory effects have thus been excluded as a possibility.

The validity of this assumption was the focus of a recent study by van Meurs and Saris. It was found that there is good evidence that these memory effects exist and that they affect the results of the MTMM analysis. We shall now report on this research and discuss the consequences for research designs which might eliminate these effects or at least reduce them.

We also discuss the effect of the choice of the traits on the results of the analysis of MTMM models. The possibility cannot be excluded that the specific choice of traits has an effect on the resulting quality coefficients. In an experiment by van Meurs this point has been tested and effects on the estimates were found.

At the end of Part 2 we discuss the designs which should be used in order to reduce these effects as much as possible. Although these two studies were not reported at the conference in Amsterdam but at the conference in Brussels in 1989, we have taken the liberty presenting them here because of their importance for the approach which is discussed in this book.