

Identifying Personality and Psychological States in Words

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Two Research Tracks

How do the words we use in our everyday lives reflect our personalities, relationships, and wellbeing?

1. Function words & social relationships
2. Content words & dimensions of communication

Function Words and Social Relationships

Chung & Pennebaker
Fiedler (Ed.), *Social Communication*, 2007

Hancock, Beaver, Chung, Frazee, Pennebaker, Cai, & Graesser
Behavioral Sciences in Terrorism and Political Aggression, 2010

Pennebaker & Chung
Krippendorf & Bock (Eds.), *"A Content Analysis Reader"*, 2008

Function Words and Social Relationships

Do you have a big secret?

Participate in an email study for \$100

A federally funded research project is exploring how people use emails when they have been living with a very big secret.

Requirements:

Age 18 or older

Your email program must be Gmail.

You must have started keeping this secret sometime in the past 6-7 years (i.e. 2004 or later)

If you eventually started telling others about the secret later, that's OK.

You will not have to tell us exactly what the secret is. In addition to completing some questionnaires, we will want to analyze some of your emails. The procedure will guarantee anonymity to you and your email correspondents.

www.texasarchiveproject.org



This study is conducted at the University of Texas at Austin . IRB # 2009-12-0037

Tausczik, Chung, & Pennebaker
Under review

Content Words and Dimensions of Communication

The (Galton) Lexical Hypothesis of Personality

1. Personality traits that are important to people's lives will be represented in language.
2. The most important traits will be encoded as a single word in language.

Content Words and Dimensions of Communication

The Big Five

Oopenness

CConscientiousness

EExtraversion

AAgreeableness

NNeuroticism

Content Words and Dimensions of Communication

NEGATIVITY	SOCIABILITY	MATURITY
Mad	Quiet	Mature
Bad	Shy	Successful
Hurt	Outgoing	Caring
Horrible	Reserved	Capable
Scared	Comfortable	Accomplished
+N	-E	+E

Content Words and Dimensions of Communication

SOCIABILITY	HOBBIES	SIMPATIA
Hablar <i>Speak</i>	Musica <i>Music</i>	Carinosa <i>Affectionate</i>
Prefiero <i>Prefer</i>	Cine <i>Movies</i>	Rencorosa <i>Rancorous</i>
Miedo <i>Fear</i>	Bailar <i>Dance</i>	Honesta <i>Honest</i>
Expresar <i>Express</i>	Leer <i>Read</i>	Celosa <i>Jealous</i>
Confianza <i>Trust</i>	Escuchar <i>Listen</i>	Sensible <i>Sensible</i>

Content Words and Dimensions of Communication

INFORMAL SPEECH	POSITIVE EVENTS	SCHOOL
fucked	day	homework
shitty	time	study
bitch	good	essay
ass	love	English
haha	likes	exam

Kramer & Chung

Proceedings of the International Conference on Weblogs and Social Media, 2011

Content Words and Dimensions of Communication

SYMPTOM	HOME	TREATMENT	WORK
Pain	Husband	Therapist	Company
Sad	Daughter	Therapy	Colleague
Body	Son	Physicians	Boss

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