Differences in the meaning of related emotion words (ELIN-GRID questionnaire)

In all languages of the world, people use emotion words to describe their emotional experiences. Emotion words can convey a lot of information. For example, by using a single emotion word, we can communicate something about
- the situation that caused the emotion (e.g., if we say we feel "surprise", people will infer that something sudden must have happened),
- the bodily symptoms we have (e.g., shivering in "fear"),
- the way we express our emotional experience (e.g., having our jaw drop in "astonishment"),
- the way one wants to react to the situation (e.g., wanting to sing and dance if we say we're feeling "joy")
- our actual feelings (e.g., feeling bad or good, weak or strong, alert or calm)
- or the way we can try to regulate our emotion (e.g., trying to conceal our "jealousy").

In the present study, we focus on emotion words that are close in meaning – that is, words that roughly describe the same, or similar, emotional experiences (for example, *fear, fright, anxiety*, and *apprehension*)

We would like to ask you to answer some questions about the meaning of similar words in your language. In particular, we would like to ask you about some features that may be implicit in the meaning of those words. You will have from 3 to 5 words to rate. Your task in the questionnaire will be to say how likely it is for somebody to infer those features when the words are used to describe emotional states of a person.

These features are grouped into the following categories:
1. features regarding the **subjective experience** that characterizes the emotional state (for example, *feeling bad* in "depression")
2. features regarding the **bodily symptoms** that tend to occur during the emotional state (for example, shivering in "fear").
3. features regarding the **expressions** typically shown during the emotional state (for example, *jaw-drop* in "astonishment")
4. features regarding typical **actions** (or desires to act) that usually occur during the emotional state (for example, *singing* in "joy")
5. features regarding the **regulation** of the emotional state (for example, *hiding* "jealousy")
6. features regarding the **evaluation** that the person does (consciously or not) of the event or the situation that elicited the emotion" (for example, we are very likely to assume that an emotion-eliciting event is evaluated as *sudden* if somebody says s/he felt "surprise")
7. other **general features** of the emotional state"

We would like to ask you to focus as much as possible on the meaning of each of the emotion words you will see on the screen and answer each question for each one of them. As the words can be quite similar in meaning, please try to focus on the *differences* the words have in your native language.

Please rate the likelihood with which each emotion feature can be inferred from each of the emotion words you will see on the screen.

For each word, please use the following nine-point scale to indicate the likelihood with which a feature can be inferred when a speaker of your native language uses that word:

1. Extremely unlikely
2.
3.
4.
5. Neither likely nor unlikely
6.
7.
8.
9. Extremely likely

You will need about an hour to complete the questionnaire. We thank you in advance for your time and cooperation!

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Sex: male/ female
How old are you ?
Where did you spend most of your life (country)?
Where do you live now (country)?
Educational attainment
- Basic education
- Basic education + vocational training
- Secondary education
- University/College education

Are you a student currently enrolled at a university ? yes/ no
Did you, your parents or your grandparents, migrate to the country where you are residing now?
If yes, what was the country of origin?

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Subjective feeling
In the following section, you will be presented with features regarding the subjective experience one may undergo during the emotional episode.

When you hear/read this word in your language, how likely is it, as inferred from the meaning the word, that the person undergoing the emotional experience
1. felt good
2. felt bad
3. felt strong

4. felt weak
5. felt calm
6. felt restless
7. felt responsible for what had happened
8. felt blameworthy
9. felt degraded
10. felt socially unworthy

Bodily symptoms

In this part of the questionnaire, you will be presented with features related to the bodily symptoms that can occur during the emotional experiences.

When you hear/read this word in your language, how likely is it, as inferred from the meaning the word, that the person undergoing the emotional experience
11. blushed
12. perspired, or had moist hands
13. felt warm
14. felt hot
15. felt cold
16. got pale
17. felt her/his heartbeat getting faster
18. felt her/his breathing getting faster
19. felt her/his muscles getting tense
20. had a lump in the throat
21. trembled, or felt shivers

Expressions

In this part of the questionnaire, you will be presented with features related to the expressions that can accompany the emotional experience.

When you hear/read this word in your language, how likely is it, as inferred from the meaning the word, that the person undergoing the emotional experience
22. spoke louder
23. spoke faster
24. smiled
25. frowned
26. showed tears
27. had speech disturbances (e.g., stammering, mumbling)
28. closed her or his eyes so as to avoid eye contact
29. covered the face with her/his hands
30. adopted a straighter body posture
31. pushed her/his chest forward
32. had a slumped bodily posture
33. lifted the chin

34. lowered her/his head
35. was shifting her/his body posture continuously

Action Tendencies

In the following section, you will be presented with features related to the behavior one may undergo, or things one may want to do during the emotional experience.

When you hear/read this word in your language, how likely is it, as inferred from the meaning of the word, that the person undergoing the emotional experience
>   36. wanted to damage, hit or say something that hurts to the person who had caused the emotion
>   37. wanted to hit or damage the things nearby
>   38. wanted to damage, hit or say something that hurts to whoever was nearby
>   39. wanted to do some harm to her/himself
>   40. wanted to withdrew from people or things
>   41. wanted to escape from, or flee the situation
>   42. wanted to repair the damage/harm s/he had done
>   43. wanted to apologize
>   44. wanted to blame others
>   45. wanted to take revenge
>   46. wanted to deny what was happening
>   47. wanted to be seen, to be in the centre of attention
>   48. wanted to be close to people or things
>   49. wanted to sing and dance

Regulation

In the following section, you will be presented with features regarding the regulation one may exert over the emotion

When you hear/read this word in your language, how likely is it, as inferred from the meaning of the word, that the person undergoing the emotional experience
>   50. hid the emotion from others by smiling
>   51. showed her/his emotion more than s/he felt it
>   52. showed her/his emotion less than s/he felt it

Evaluation

In this part of the questionnaire, you will be presented with features regarding the evaluation or appraisal (conscious or not), of the situation that led to the emotional state.

When a person uses this word in your language to describe how he/she feels, how likely is it, as inferred from the meaning of the word, that the event that lead to the emotional experience
>   53. could have been expected by the person
>   54. was caused intentionally

55. was caused by the person's behavior
56. was caused by an intrinsic quality of the person her/himself
57. was caused because of the person's material possessions
58. was caused by somebody else's behavior
59. was caused by someone who is equal in social status
60. was caused by someone who is inferior in social status
61. was caused by someone who is superior, or higher in social status
62. was caused by the behavior of a close person (e.g., kin or a friend)
63. was caused by an intrinsic quality of a close person (e.g., kin or a friend)
64. was caused because of the material possessions of a close person (e.g., kin or a friend)
65. was caused by the behavior of a stranger
66. was caused by an intrinsic quality of a stranger
67. was caused because of the material possessions of a stranger
68. was caused by circumstances/ things beyond any human control
69. called for an immediate response or action
70. was incongruent with the person's own standards, ideals or values (regardless of whether these are coherent with the social norms or laws)
71. violated laws or socially accepted norms (regardless of whether the person believes in these laws or norms)
72. involved unjust treatment of the person
73. involved (serious) damage to others
74. had an impact on the person's reputation (that is, on how other people regard her or him)
75. had impact on the person's self-image (that is, on how the person sees her-/himself)
76. affected others
77. affected the person only
78. there was no specific event that caused the emotion

General
In the following section, you will be presented with a few additional questions

When you hear/read this word in your language, how likely is it, as inferred from the meaning of the word, that the emotional experience referred to by the word
79. can last for a long time
80. is experienced by the person about her/himself as a whole
81. is experienced by the person only about her/his actions
82. is an intense emotional state
83. is experienced towards someone who is equal in social status
84. is experienced towards someone who is inferior in social status
85. is experienced towards a superior/someone with a higher social status
86. is frequently experienced in your society (regardless of whether or not it is shown to others)
87. is frequently openly manifested in your society
88. is highly acceptable in your society as to actually experiencing it (regardless of whether or not it is shown to others)?

89. is highly acceptable in your society as to showing it to others (regardless of whether or not it is sincerely felt)
90. is experienced individually
91. is experienced together with other people
92. happens when other people are present
93. happens when the person is alone
94. is attributed by people in your society to themselves
95. is attributed by people in your society to others

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Personal information
To be able to compare the results across cultures and languages, we need some background information. Thank you for answering the following questions.

Next you will find the description of two different individuals. Which person do you think resembles you most? Please choose the profile that best characterizes you, even if one or two items do not apply.
- Person A: Likes languages a lot, reads a lot, expresses herself or himself clearly, likes games like cross-words, does not like numbers
- Person B: Is good at Maths, is at ease with abstract symbols, likes strategy games like chess, does not pay much attention to her or his writing style

What is your mother tongue (language you were raised in) ?
Which languages do you know (all languages of which you have at least a passive knowledge)?
During the last year, I spoke / read / wrote in this language
1. on a daily basis
2. at least once a week
3. at least once a month
4. several times a year
5. (almost) never
To be rated for all languages with at least a passive knowledge

Do you have any comments on the questions or their presentation? Please write them down here.

You are now done with the questionnaire.
We thank you for your participation in this study