

The meaning of emotion words (CoreGRID)

Around the world, people use words to describe their ongoing or past emotional experiences. By using a single emotion word, people can convey a lot of information. They can refer to their interpretation of the situation that caused the emotional experience, the bodily symptoms they felt, the way they expressed their emotional experience, the way they wanted to react to the situation, their actual feelings, or the way they tried to regulate their emotion.

In the present study, we would like to examine how languages differ with respect to the information that can be inferred when persons use emotion words to describe their emotional experience. In other words, we are interested in understanding the explicit and implicit meanings of emotion words across languages.

We would like to ask you to define the meaning of different emotion words, as commonly used in your language, in terms of a set of emotion features. These features are grouped in the following categories

1. **Feelings** - features describing the feeling that characterizes the emotion
2. **Bodily reactions** - features describing the bodily reactions that tend to occur during the emotional state.
3. **Expression** - features describing facial and vocal expressions that accompany the emotion
4. **Behavioral tendencies** - features describing tendencies to behave in certain ways that accompany the emotion.
5. **Event evaluation** - features describing the person's evaluation or appraisal of the event, conscious or not.

We would like you to focus as much as possible on the meaning of each of the emotion words among speakers of your language.

Please rate the likelihood of each emotion feature occurring when a particular emotion word is used by speakers of your language to describe an emotional experience.

For each feature, you can use the following nine-point response scale to indicate the likelihood of the feature occurring when a speaker of your native language uses a particular emotion word to describe his/her emotional experience.

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

Thank you in advance for your time and cooperation.

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

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?

Feelings

This section lists features describing the feeling referred to by the emotion words

If a speaker of your native language as spoken in your country or region uses the following emotion words to describe an emotional experience, how likely is it that the person felt

1. the emotion very intensely
2. the emotion for a long time
3. good
4. tired
5. restless
6. strong
7. calm
8. bad
9. awake
10. weak

Bodily reactions

This section lists features describing the bodily reactions that can occur during an emotional experience.

If a speaker of your native language as spoken in your country or region uses the following emotion words to describe an emotional experience, how likely is it that the person had the following bodily reactions?

11. feeling weak limbs
12. becoming pale
13. stomach disturbance
14. slowed heart rate
15. rapid heart rate

16. muscles tensing
17. slowed breathing
18. rapid breathing
19. feeling warm
20. sweating
21. feeling cold

Expression

This section lists features describing the facial and vocal expressions that occur during emotional experiences.

If a speaker of your native language as spoken in your country or region uses the following emotion words to describe an emotional experience, how likely is it that the person

22. smiled
23. had the jaw drop
24. raised the eyebrows
25. frowned
26. closed the eyes
27. had tears in the eyes
28. spoke more loudly
29. spoke in a trembling voice
30. spoke in a firm voice
31. had speech disturbances
32. spoke more rapidly
33. spoke more slowly

Behavioral tendencies

This section lists features describing tendencies to behave in certain ways that may occur during an emotional experience

If a speaker of your native language as spoken in your country or region uses the following emotion words to describe an emotional experience, how likely is it that the person

34. wanted the ongoing situation to last or be repeated
35. wanted to stop what he/she was doing
36. wanted to undo what was happening
37. wanted to comply with someone else's wishes
38. wanted to leave the initiative to someone else
39. wanted to overcome an obstacle
40. wanted to do nothing
41. lacked the motivation to pay attention to what was going on
42. wanted to disappear or hide from others
43. wanted to do damage, hit, or say something that hurts
44. wanted to oppose someone or something
45. wanted to tackle the situation

46. wanted to run away in any direction
47. wanted to sing and dance

Event evaluation

This section lists features describing the evaluation or appraisal (conscious or not) of the situation that led to the emotion.

If a speaker of your native language as spoken in your country or region uses the following emotion words to describe an emotional experience caused by an event, how likely is it that

48. the event had consequences that were predictable
49. the event had negative, undesirable consequences for the person
50. the event happened by chance
51. the event involved the violation of laws or socially accepted norms
52. the event occurred suddenly
53. the event required an immediate response
54. the event was caused by somebody else's behavior
55. the event was important for and relevant to the person's goals or needs
56. the event was uncontrollable
57. the event was pleasant for the person
58. the event was unpredictable
59. there was no urgency in the situation
60. the person could control the consequences of the event
61. the event was caused by the person's own behavior
62. the event was important for and relevant to the goals or needs of somebody else
63. the person had a dominant position in the situation
64. the event was inconsistent with the person's own standards and ideals
65. the person had power over the consequences of the event
66. the event confirmed the expectations of the person
67. the person was powerless in the situation
68. the person could live with the consequences of the event

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