

UC Merced

Proceedings of the Annual Meeting of the Cognitive Science Society

Title

An Embodied Cognition Approach to Studying Emotional Words: The Impact of Positive Facial Experiences on Semantic Properties Judgment

Permalink

<https://escholarship.org/uc/item/0p90p4h4>

Journal

Proceedings of the Annual Meeting of the Cognitive Science Society, 37(0)

Authors

Chu, Ching

Yu, Chi-Lin

Chuang, Ya-Yun

et al.

Publication Date

2015

Peer reviewed

An Embodied Cognition Approach to Studying Emotional Words: The Impact of Positive Facial Experiences on Semantic Properties Judgment

Ching Chu

National Cheng Kung University, Tainan, Taiwan

Chi-Lin Yu

National Cheng Kung University, Tainan, Taiwan

Ya-Yun Chuang

National Cheng Kung University, Tainan, Taiwan

Yueh-Lin Tsai

National Cheng Kung University, Tainan, Taiwan

Jon-Fan Hu

National Cheng Kung University, Tainan, Taiwan

Abstract: Embodied cognition is a theory that emphasizes the importance of sensorimotor experiences for cognition. Therefore, the present study focused on how the facial expression manipulation influences the property judgments toward Chinese emotional words. 41 college students were divided into “biting the pen with smile” group and control group to rate the same 26 Chinese emotional words chosen from a Chinese Emotions Corpora (Cho, Chen, and Cheng, 2013). After having the instructed expression, subjects evaluated several semantic dimensions of emotional words immediately. The findings show that the “biting the pen with smile” group has higher rating values for dimension ‘valence’, ‘frequency’ and ‘continuance’ for the ‘disgust’ words, and the dimension ‘valence’ for the ‘angry’ words. The study found that positive facial expression indeed influenced the semantic properties of negative words, not the positive emotional words. The results are useful for investigating how word meaning is built in children and clinical applications.