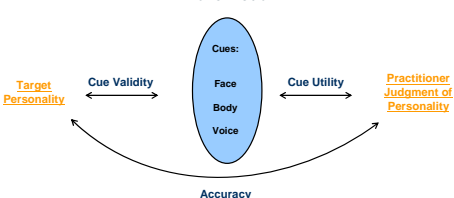


INTRODUCTION

- Facial masking is a physical symptom of Parkinson's disease (PD) that impairs facial expression.
- Decades of research have shown healthcare practitioners make inaccurate, negatively biased judgments about the personalities of targets with PD that are biased by masking.
- This study examined the influence of culture on practitioners' accuracy in judging the personality traits of people with PD. It included practitioners and targets with PD from the United States (US) and Taiwan (TW).
- We examined three possible mechanisms for the influence of culture on the accuracy of personality trait judgments.
 - Universality of trait encoding and decoding
 - Ingroup recognition advantage (Meissner & Brigham, 2001)
 - Variation in trait importance (Williams, Satterwhite, & Saiz, 1998)
- A lens model (Brunswick, 1955) was used to describe how practitioners viewed targets' personalities. It yields accuracy scores, describes the behaviors associated with an attribute, and the way the behaviors are interpreted by perceivers.

Lens Model



Cue Validity: the association between the cues available in the targets' behavioral stream and their self-reported personality.

Cue Utility: the association between the targets' behavioral cues and the practitioners' judgments.

Accuracy: the degree of association between the targets' self-reported personality and the practitioners' judgment of their personality.

METHOD

PD Target Interviews: Participants with PD (12 US and 12 TW) completed a videotaped interview and the Ten Item Personality Inventory (Gosling, et al., 2003). Half of each group had moderately severe masking, half mild masking.

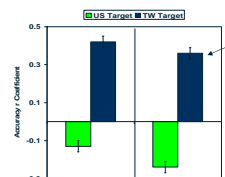
Practitioner Judgments: Practitioners (77 US and 64 TW) viewed clips 80 s. content-filtered video clips of each target describing his or her favorite activities and rated targets' personality traits.

Behavioral Ratings: Trained research assistants rated targets' facial, bodily, and vocal behaviors (IRCP; Tickle-Degnen Lab).

RESULTS

Graphs show differences in trait judgment accuracy across cultures. In order to understand where the cultural differences in accuracy come from, we can examine the cue utilities and cue validities. Tables show facial expressivity and the two largest cue validities with their corresponding cue utilities.

Average Personality Trait Judgment Accuracy r Coefficients for All Cultures



Agreeableness

For example, when judging agreeableness in TW targets, practitioners made judgments (utilized cues) based on raised cheeks, which was a valid cue for TW targets. This may explain the high accuracy in recognizing agreeableness in TW targets.

Conscientiousness

TW, but not US practitioners, made judgments related to slouching, which was a valid cue to conscientiousness. This may partially explain the difference in accuracy between TW and US practitioners.

Emotional Stability

Practitioners rated US and TW targets who were more facially expressive as more emotionally stable. However, facial expressiveness was a valid cue only in TW targets, which may explain the inaccuracy in recognizing emotional stability in US targets.

Extraversion

Practitioners relied on facial expressiveness when judging extraversion, and it was a valid cue. This may explain the moderate levels of accuracy found across cultures.

Openness

Inflection was a valid cue to openness in US targets, but TW practitioners used inflection when judging openness in US targets to a larger degree than the US practitioners did. This may partially explain the US practitioners' inaccuracy in recognizing openness to experience in US targets.

Cue Validity and Cue Utility Average r Coefficients for All Cultures

Cues	Target Country	Cue Validity		Cue Utility	
		US Pract.	TW Pract.	US Pract.	TW Pract.
Facial Expressivity	US	-0.07	0.09	-0.18	0.15
Facial Expressivity	TW	0.27	0.42*	0.15	0.15
Raised Cheeks	US	-0.04	0.18	-0.06	
Raised Cheeks	TW	0.41*	0.51*	0.31*	
Slouching	US	-0.44	0.29*	0.39*	
Slouching	TW	-0.13	-0.27*	-0.25*	

Cues	Target Country	Cue Validity		Cue Utility	
		US Pract.	TW Pract.	US Pract.	TW Pract.
Facial Expressivity	US	0.32	0.2	0.11	
Facial Expressivity	TW	-0.34	0.15	0.1	
Slouching	US	-0.51	0.06	-0.27*	
Slouching	TW	-0.69*	0.12	0.32*	
Vocal Speed	US	0.54	0.01	0.30*	
Vocal Speed	TW	0.03	-0.05	0.34*	

Cues	Target Country	Cue Validity		Cue Utility	
		US Pract.	TW Pract.	US Pract.	TW Pract.
Facial Expressivity	US	-0.24	0.51*	0.55*	
Facial Expressivity	TW	0.42*	0.50*	0.49*	
Raised Brows	US	-0.24	0.32*	0.36*	
Raised Brows	TW	0.56	0.36*	0.40*	
Blinking	US	-0.60*	0.39*	0.23*	
Blinking	TW	0.48	0.41*	0.32*	

Cues	Target Country	Cue Validity		Cue Utility	
		US Pract.	TW Pract.	US Pract.	TW Pract.
Facial Expressivity	US	0.49	0.62*	0.61*	
Facial Expressivity	TW	0.39	0.62*	0.56*	
Brows Together	US	0.56	0.60*	-0.11	
Brows Together	TW	-0.43	0.56*	-0.12	
Inflection	US	0.52	0.57*	0.39*	
Inflection	TW	0.60*	0.61*	0.40*	

Cues	Target Country	Cue Validity		Cue Utility	
		US Pract.	TW Pract.	US Pract.	TW Pract.
Facial Expressivity	US	0.39	0.28*	0.41*	
Facial Expressivity	TW	0.22	0.39*	0.41*	
Brows	US	0.55	0.08	0.18	
Together	TW	-0.57	-0.31*	-0.42*	
Inflection	US	0.77*	0.22*	0.44*	
Inflection	TW	0.31	0.19	0.2	

RESULTS CONTINUED

- Agreeableness:** US practitioners judged agreeableness more accurately than TW practitioners. All practitioners judged TW targets more accurately than US targets. Both US and TW practitioner cultures judged agreeableness in TW, but not US, targets significantly better than chance ($r_s = .22-.83, p < .01$).
- Conscientiousness:** TW practitioners judged conscientiousness more accurately than US practitioners. All practitioners judged TW targets more accurately than US targets. Both US and TW practitioner cultures judged conscientiousness in TW, but not US, targets significantly better than chance. ($r_s = .17-.37, p < .05$).
- Emotional Stability:** All practitioners judged emotional stability more accurately in TW targets than in US targets. Both practitioner cultures judged emotional stability in TW, but not US, targets significantly better than chance. ($r_s = .69-.81, p < .001$).
- Extraversion:** There were no significant differences in extraversion judgment accuracy across cultures. All practitioners were significantly better than chance in recognizing extraversion in both target cultures. ($r_s = .72-.87, p < .001$).
- Openness:** TW practitioners judged openness more accurately than US practitioners. TW targets were judged more accurately than US targets by all practitioners. There was an interaction of practitioner culture and target culture, with TW practitioners more accurate than US practitioners in judging US targets. US and TW practitioners were significantly better than chance in recognizing openness to experience in both US and TW targets. ($r_s = .19-.85, p < .05$).

CONCLUSIONS

- Culture and facial masking are important moderators of practitioners' understanding of clients' character.
- Practitioners across all cultures made personality judgments based on the mask, particularly for extraversion, regardless of whether it was a valid cue.
- Cultural influences on the accuracy of practitioner judgments:

- Universality:** extraversion was judged at levels above chance and equally accurately across all cultures. Previous work found that judgments of extraversion, compared to other Big Five traits, show the most consensus within and across cultures (Albright et al., 1997; Ambady, Hallahan & Rosenthal, 1995). Extraversion may be universally recognized.
- Cultural differences in trait importance** (Williams, Satterwhite, & Saiz, 1998) may explain the cross-cultural differences in judgment accuracy of agreeableness, conscientiousness, emotional stability, and openness. Collectivistic cultures rate these traits as more important than individualistic cultures, possibly leading them to encode and decode them better.
- Ingroup recognition advantage** (Meissner & Brigham, 2001) was not supported in this study because practitioners did not recognize traits of same-culture targets more accurately.

CONTACT

Kathleen Bogart at kathleen.bogart@tufts.edu