Implicit Bias Tests

Speaking about the way in which the tests are actually conducted, with the bias and then focusing on the software design of the website will be discussed.

The tests are very similar, using the E and I keys to determine and sort different objects into their groups. Towards the end of the test, there are result to show you how you did, depending on the answers that you have submitted.

This test was surprisingly fun because it was like a game, where you had to sort the items out as fast as you could, while still trying to think about what should be sorted into which category. This bias test also plays a big role in showing you how you think and what the majority of people think, as well as what is actually true, factually.

The tests do test you in how quick you are to determine what something is, regardless if you think that it is biased at the time. I had taken the weight and the Arab tests, to see how fast I could determine what goes into which category. I got quite a few answers wrong, with Arab names, which is ironic, because I am Arabic, and this can be evident that it is not easy to just determine something even if you are no stranger to it.

Personally, I believe that these tests are genuinely important, as it shows you how off your perception can be of people and things without thinking twice. Therefore, being biased to someone or a group of people can come easy, which is definitely not a good thing. This test is also good to teach people to think before they react about things, and know what they are talking about before they make false accusations, which are hurtful, about many people.

The way that the site is developed can also be discussed. The way that these tests are created, and depending on the answers being wrong and right, these tests are also developed through other people’s bias as well, in this case, the developers. Considering that they did determine which are the right and wrongs answers, and some of these tests cannot be factually proven, they are also still biased. They way in which developers can actually move forward, can rather be by conducting surveys with people involved, and gathering more information to inform people about biases and situations, coming from the people that are being discussed.

Another way that the site can discussed for future developers of things like this, is the way in which the tests are carried out, the information and the agreements in the beginning of the tests. The license agreements can be modified to reassure people even more that their information will be protected, no matter what, and stick to this promise. I also realised that when you take another test, you have to enter your personal information, even though this is safer than storing information, it does become tedious by answering the same few questions constantly. The other way in which the site can be improved is by changing the way you categorise the items into different groups, instead of using two buttons to determine things, and one button to determine two different categories, this can get confusing, there should be interface buttons that allow the user to take the test and click on the buttons, instead of the keyboards, this way the test will be slightly more effective and the test results will be easier to determine.

Project Implicit (2011) Implicit Bias Tests, Project Implicit. Available at: https://implicit.harvard.edu/implicit/southafrica/selectatest.jsp (Accessed:3 July 2021).