# 自夸对个体建议采纳的影响 \*

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摘 要 自夸是人们为了维持自尊而做出的一种印象管理行为。然而这种行为会因方式与内容的不同对观察者造成差异性感知。基于说服效应的情绪路径,本研究采用一个预实验和一个正式实验探讨了建议者自夸方式和内容对决策者建议采纳的影响及心理机制。结果表明,较隐性与热情自夸,显性与能力自夸条件下决策者建议采纳程度更低,而决策者对建议者的好感分别中介了上述关系。

关键词 自夸方式 自夸内容 建议采纳 傲慢假说 说服效应

# 1 问题提出

生活中, 当面临不确定事件时(如购房、填报 志愿等等),人们往往难以独立完成决策,此时主 体会或主动或被动地征询他人的建议, 进而综合形 成最终决策,这就是建议采纳过程(advice taking) (Jungermann, 1999)。近年来,学界探讨了建议过 程中的情境因素,例如,高任务难度以及建议需要 付费时决策者建议采纳程度更高(Schrah, Dalal, & Sniezek, 2006; Sniezek, Schrah, & Dalal, 2004)。作为 建议采纳的主体,决策者自身诸多特征也会影响建 议采纳程度, 例如, 自恋程度 (Kausel, Culbertson, Leiva, Slaughter, & Jackson, 2015) 和权力感水平高 (Tost, Gino, & Larrick, 2012)的个体更会固执己见。 此外,作为互动过程的另一方——建议者,同样发 挥着重要作用, 比如具备高专业性与善意程度的 建议者更容易得到决策者信任(van Swol & Snizek, 2005)。然而,还有很多建议者差异(即,谁在提建议) 的影响仍未被探明。

受自我提升(self-enhancement)动机和自我优

越信念(self-superiority belief)的驱使, 人们会使 用积极的语言强调或夸大自身优越品质, 目的在 于增强自我概念并寻求他人的积极评价(Buunk & van den Eijnden, 1997)。在建议采纳过程中,决策 者最根本的目的在于提升决策质量。而自夸能够直 抒个体的优秀品质,并提升旁观者对建议源的评价 与信任(Vonk, 1999)。此外,作为一种印象管理 策略, 自夸能够带来积极的说服效果。例如, 面试 者积极的自我展示能够提升他人评价, 并获得聘 用。声称自身具备良好专业素养的销售者能够增强 信息源的可靠性,并增强消费者购买意愿(Kacmar, Delery, & Ferris, 1992)。然而, 自夸的影响效应也 是权变的。Colvin, Block 和 Funder (1995) 发现, 在公共场合使用自我夸大的策略会威胁他人自尊水 平, 甚至降低自夸者的个人声望。针对结论不一致 的现象, 学者们对自夸这种社会心理现象进行了更 具深度的窥探。例如, Hoorens, Pandelaere, Oldersma 和 Sedikides (2012)认为自夸行为包含积极自我陈 述(noncomparative positive claim)与自我优越表达 (self-superiority claim)两种形式。相对于前者单纯 陈述自身某方面优势(例如我数学成绩好)来说,

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后者由于过分凸显自身优越性(例如我数学成绩比别人好)从而降低人际喜爱。对此,他们进一步提出傲慢假说(hubris hypothesis; Hoorens et al., 2012)来解释这一发现:相对于积极自我陈述 ,观察者应对自我优越表达的态度更为消极,原因在于: (a) 表达自我优越传递了过于膨胀的自我概念,(b) 表达自我优越传递了对他人的消极看法,使他人感受到自夸者的冒犯。

除强调(显性自夸)或隐藏(隐性自夸)<sup>①</sup>社会比较涵义外,自夸也会因内容的不同而造成差异(van Damme, Deschrijver, van Geert, & Hoorens, 2017)。 热情(warmth)和能力(competence)是群际评价中的两个重要维度。相对于因热情不足而被否定,人们更加不能接受他人对其能力的否定(DeBono & Muraven, 2014)。这是因为热情与个体人亲社会特质相关,相反能力通常与竞争品质相关,表达能力方面的优越更容易威胁他人自尊水平(Abele & Wojciszke, 2014)。因此,热情自夸(表达热情优越感;例如我是很好的朋友)往往比能力自夸(表达能力优越感;例如我是一个好学生)更能获得观察者好感(van Damme et al., 2017)。

根据傲慢假说,不当的自夸方式会传达社会比较意蕴,使得观察者感知自夸者过于傲慢甚至不怀好意。在建议过程中,决策者感知到建议者的善意程度会促进建议采纳程度(张艳梅,杜秀芳,王修欣,2015;White,2005),因为当建议者表达出良好意图时,决策者倾向于认为建议者是基于帮助他们的目的,进而提高信任与采纳意愿(Bonaccio & Dalal,2006)。较隐性自夸与热情自夸,显性自夸与能力自夸更易威胁决策者自尊,从而降低对于建议者善意程度的评价。因此,本文提出:

假设 1: 较隐性(la)与热情自夸(lb),当 建议者显性与能力自夸时,决策者建议采纳程度降 低。

研究表明,人们更容易被自己喜欢的信息源说服(Sinclair, Moore, Mark, Soldat, & Lavis, 2010)。这是因为对目标的好感(liking)能够激发个体的积

极情绪。个体依赖于他们体验到的不同情绪对事物进行评价和判断,并产生和情绪体验效价相一致的决策输出。当决策者对建议者产生积极情绪时,更容易采纳他人建议。一些研究也验证了这一观点,比如,感激情绪、愉快情绪下的被试更多地表现信任并采纳建议(Gino & Schweitzer, 2008)。因此,决策者对建议者好感(liking)程度越高,愈能激发积极情绪,提高建议采纳程度。根据傲慢假说,个体显性(vs. 隐性)自夸、能力(vs. 热情)自夸会使观察者感到自己被冒犯,因此降低对个体的好感和建议采纳程度(van Damme et al., 2017)。由此提出:

假设 2: 决策者对建议者的好感分别在自夸方式(显性/隐性)、自夸内容(能力/热情)与建议采纳之间起中介作用。

# 2 预实验 材料有效性检验

#### 2.1 实验目的

预实验分别对正式实验中材料的指导语理解、 问卷语句理解,以及呈现的建议值进行测试。

#### 2.2 方法

#### 2.2.1 被试

被试来自江苏省某高校的80名学生,男性47人, 平均年龄为19.39岁(SD=.78岁)。

#### 2.2.2 实验材料

(1)自夸的操纵材料:采用 Hoorens等(2012)的实验材料。隐性[显性]能力自夸:很多人都知道,我是一名[比别人]好[更好的]学生,我认真地[更认真地]准备课程和考试,我也经常很成功地[更成功地]完成学习任务。即使课程并不吸引我,我也会有新颖的想法,并花大量时间寻找相关信息。我发现我很容易[更容易]学习大量的学习材料。如果我审视自己[与别人相比],我会满意地说我很有[更有]组织性、勤奋和创新,我有很好的[更好的]洞察力。

隐性[显性]热情自夸:很多人都知道,我是一个[比别人]很好相处的[更好相处的]朋友,朋友和我经常玩的很[更]开心。我为我的朋友做很[更]多。当生活艰难时,我支持并鼓励他们达到自己的目标。我感觉我很容易[比别人更容易]接受朋友本来的样子。如果审视我自己[与他人相比],我会说我是很[更]乐于奉献、忠诚、开放的,你和我可以玩的很[更]开心。

(2) 自夸启动的测试题目: 采用四个自编项目

① van Damme 等(2017)分别以方式和内容两个维度将自夸区分为显性自夸、隐性自夸;能力自夸、热情自夸。其中,显性自夸与隐性自夸分别对应 Hoorens 等(2012)所提出的积极自我陈述和自我优越表达。为突出差别,本文选取 van Damme 等(2017)对于自夸的分类方式。

检验自夸的启动是否有效。显性(隐性)自夸检验:他/她通过与他人比较的方式表达了优越感(他/她表达了优越感,但没有使用与他人比较的方式);能力(热情)自夸检验:他/她表达了能力(热情)方面的优越感。

(3)硬币数量估计任务: 首先依次为被试呈现6张照片,每张照片分别呈现一个装有不同数量1角硬币的硬币罐。要求被试尽可能准确估计每个硬币罐中的硬币数量(Tost et al., 2012)。

#### 2.2.3 实验程序

首先将被试随机分配到隐性/显性自夸,能力/热情自夸组中。告知被试将要与一位搭档共同完成实验任务,并呈现任务搭档的自我介绍以实现对于自夸的操纵。最后要求被试完成自夸测试题目与硬币估计任务。

#### 2.3 结果

# 2.3.1 正式实验中呈现的建议值

被试对 6 张硬币图片估计值的平均值依次为:  $89.75(\pm 39.00),119.73(\pm 47.17),80.30(\pm 24.68),50.01(\pm 10.59),24.98(\pm 5.80),50.87(\pm 16.27)。正式实验中给出的建议值依次为: 90,120,80,50,25,60。$ 

#### 2.3.2 自夸启动效果检验

操作检验结果显示,较显性自夸组(M=1.07, SD=.26),被试在隐性自夸组中(M=3.72, SD=.83)与搭档"非社会比较"的感知更强,t (78) = 19.50, p<.001, d=.91; 相反,较隐性自夸组(M=1.13, SD=.41),被试在显性自夸组中(M=3.93, SD=.76)与搭档社会比较感知更强,t (78) = 20.47, p<.001, d=.92。说明隐性与显性自夸的操作分别有效。

较热情自夸组(M=1.18, SD=.50),被试在能力自夸组中(M=3.98, SD=.80)感知到搭档的能力优越更强,t (78)=18.76, p<.001, d=.90;较能力自夸组(M=1.18, SD=.50),被试在热情自夸组中(M=4.03, SD=.86)感知到搭档的热情优越更强,t (78)=18.08, p<.001, d=.90。说明能力与热情自夸的操作均有效。

# 3 正式实验 自夸对建议采纳的影响及决策 者好感的中介作用

#### 3.1 实验目的

探讨自夸方式与内容是否影响建议采纳程度,以及检验决策者好感是否在上述过程中发挥中介作用。

#### 3.2 方法

#### 3.2.1 被试

180 名不同年级的大学生参与实验。剔除量表回答不完整和建议采纳程度(Weight of advice, WOA)大于 1 的被试后,最终有效被试为 144 名 (80%)。男性 85 人,被试年龄 21.10 ± 1.62 岁。为检验统计功效,采用 G\*Power(Faul,Erdfelder, Lang,& Buchner,2007)软件对结果进行事后分析(post-hoc analysis)。根据本研究主效应达到的效应量( $\eta^2$ =.08)与实际被试量(N= 144),并选择 F 检验计算得出的统计检验力水平为 82.1%,高于经验值 80%(Cohen,1992),说明本实验统计检验力良好,被试量满足研究需要。

#### 3.2.2 实验设计

采用2(自夸方式: 隐性、显性)×2(自夸内容:能力、热情)的被试间实验设计。自变量为自夸方式和自夸内容,因变量为建议采纳程度,采用公式WOA = [决策者的最终估计 - 决策者的初始估计]来[他人建议 - 决策者的初始估计]

计算, 其值在 0~1 之间, 越大说明建议接受程度越高 (See, Morrison, Rothman, & Soll, 2011)。

# 3.2.3 实验材料

- (1) 自夸的操作:采用预实验的操作材料。
- (2) 决策者对于建议者的好感:采用三项目量 表(van Damme et al., 2017)测量。5 点正向计分,代表项目如,"我认为我的搭档是好相处的"。本研究该量表  $\alpha=.94$ 。
- (3)建议采纳任务:采用如预实验所示的硬币估计任务。

### 3.2.4 实验程序

将被试随机分配到各组。采用经典的"决策者—建议者系统"范式(Judge-Advisor System, JAS)(Sniezek & Buckley, 1995),即要求被试对硬币数量进行初始估计,之后呈现指导语,告知被试将要与来自另一所学校的搭档一起完成后续任务。自夸方式/内容的操纵在虚拟搭档的自我介绍中展示"为了促进了解,你的搭档进行了自我介绍"。同时,要求被试也写下一段自我介绍以促进情境融入度。然后呈现来自搭档的建议,要求被试再次估计硬币数量以计算其改变初始决策的程度。最后,被试评价对搭档的好感程度。

#### 3.3 结果

不同自夸方式和内容下建议采纳程度的平均数

表 1 不同自夸方式和内容下 WOA 值的平均数与标准差 (M±SD)

	能力自夸	热情自夸
显性自夸	$.21 \pm .14 (n = 37)$	$.32 \pm .19 \; (\; n = 35 \; )$
隐性自夸	$.29 \pm .23 \; (n = 36)$	$.35 \pm .18 ( n = 36 )$

和标准差见表 1。方差分析表明: 自夸方式的主效应显著, $F(1, 140) = 9.11, p < .05, \eta^2 = .07$ ; 自夸内容的主效应显著, $F(1, 140) = 10.71, p = .001, \eta^2 = .08$ 。结果支持 H1a, H1b。此外,自夸方式与自夸内容交互效应不显著,F(1, 140) = .60, p > .05。

其次,采用层级回归分析检验决策者好感的中 介作用 (Baron & Kenny, 1986)。结果发现, 自夸 方式和内容分别负向影响建议采纳( $\beta = -.08$ , p <.02;  $\beta = -.07$ , p < .03)。自夸方式和内容分别与决 策者好感呈负向关系( $\beta = -.59$ , p < .001;  $\beta = -.49$ , p<.01)。即较显性、能力自夸,决策者偏好隐性、 热情自夸  $(M_{\text{Bht}} = 3.01, SD = 1.02; M_{\text{Bht}} = 2.04, SD$ = 1.38, t(142) = 3.27, p = .001, d = .83;  $M_{\text{Ahff}} = 2.86$ , SD=1.34;  $M_{\text{filth}}=2.20$ , SD=.96, t(142)=5.01, p<.001, d = .54)。将自夸方式(内容)、决策者好感 同时作为自变量,以建议采纳为因变量进行回归分 析,决策者好感的回归系数分别显著( $\beta = .05, p <$  $.003; \beta = .05, p < .001), 但自夸方式与建议采纳$ 回归系数不再显著 ( $\beta = -.05$ , p > .05;  $\beta = -.04$ , p>.05)。说明决策者好感在上述两组关系中起完全 中介作用。

最后,运用 Bootstrap 程序检验决策者好感的中介作用 (N = 5000; Bolin, 2014)。结果显示,决策者好感分别在自夸方式和建议采纳(95% CI = [-.11, -.04]),自夸内容和建议采纳(95% CI = [-.08, -.02])的关系中发挥中介作用。H2 得到支持。

# 4 讨论

正式实验结果表明,较显性与能力自夸,建议者隐性与热情自夸会引发决策者更强的好感,进而促进建议采纳程度。情绪在说服效应中的作用一直是研究者们关注的重点。以往研究表明,对信息源的好感会增强个体的趋近动机,进而对信息进行更为深度的加工(Sinclair et al., 2010)。根据傲慢假说(Hoorens et al., 2012),较隐性与热情自夸,建议者显性和能力自夸会使决策者感知建议者对他人持消极看法,进而减少对建议者的好感,最终降低建议采纳程度。

#### 4.1 理论意义

首先,以往关于建议采纳的研究多集中于决策者特征与任务特征。对建议者特征的探讨则主要聚焦在专业水平、自信以及解释水平等方面(孙露莹,陈琳,段锦云,2017; Reyt, Wiesenfeld, & Trope,2016),但缺乏对于建议者个人差异或沟通方式的探讨。本研究从全新视角出发,丰富了建议采纳的前因变量的研究。

第二,基于积极心理学视角,早期研究认为自夸等自我提升行为是一种积极的自我暗示,并有利于个体幸福感与满意度(Taylor & Brown, 1988)。本文聚焦于人际互动情境,探索了自夸行为对于个体人际适应性潜在的负面影响。此外,先前研究多数将自夸行为作为一个整体构念(Schlenker & Leary, 1982)。本文并将自夸行为按方式与内容的维度区分为四种类型,加深了对该社会心理现象的探索。

### 4.2 实践意义

尽管自夸作为一种印象管理策略可以给他人留下印象,但这种效能很可能是短暂的(Colvin et al., 1995)。尤其在以"人伦"为经、关系为"纬"的中国社会中,直接表达自我优越、夸大说辞,会降低个体适应性(佐斌,张阳阳,2006)。在向他人提出建议时,个体可以对自己进行适度的褒奖,起到"毛遂自荐"的作用以增加他人对自己的好感,但应克制通过将自己与他人比较以凸显自身的方法,同时也应该减少对自身能力过多的炫耀。

#### 4.3 不足与展望

首先,作为一种普遍的社会心理现象,自夸行为可能存在更为丰富的表现形式。比如,得到外界承认和证实的自夸内容会增强观察者对自夸者的好感与信任(Speer, 2012);较直接抱怨,个体谦恭式自夸(humblebragging)反而会降低观察者对其真诚性的感知与评价(Sezer, Gino, & Norton, 2018)。未来研究可进一步探索更多自夸类型在人际互动过程中的作用。第二,特定情境(例如面试与谈判场合)要求个体表达自身能力的优越性以为自身可靠性提供依据(Kacmar, Delery, & Ferris, 1992),这意味着高社会许可可能会缓解自夸的负面影响。未来研究可聚焦于具体场景,进一步拓展本研究结论的适用性。

# 5 结论

(1)相比于隐性自夸、热情自夸,决策者对显性自夸、能力自夸的建议者建议采纳程度更低。(2)决策者对建议者的好感分别在自夸方式、自夸内容与建议采纳的关系中起到中介作用。

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# Influence of Self-Bragging on Advice Taking

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Abstract Since working systems are increasingly uncertain and competitive, people tend to adopt necessary persuasive arguments to show themselves better than others, especially for salesmen and interviewers. Activated by self-superiority belief and self-enhancement motivation, self-bragging commonly occurs in normal life. People do so in order to achieve positive image management. In the process of advice presentation, People are likely to brag themselves to endeavor for trust and identity from others, and thus make their advice endorsed. Deriving from the hubris hypothesis, different types and content of bragging may lead to different outcomes during advice taking process. We expect that decision makers favour an implicit braggart (who claims to be "good") or a warmth braggart as compared to an explicit braggart (who claims to be "better than others") or a competence braggart, respectively, and therefore differentiate their level of advice taking. The purpose of this study was to investigate the influence of self-bragging types and content on advice-taking, and the mediator role of decision makers' liking towards advice presenter.

Two experiments were designed to explore the influence of self-bragging types and content on people's advice-taking by a classical paradigm. The decision task was to estimate the number of coins in a glass. Pre-experiment was designed to confirm the effectiveness of self-bragging manipulations and test the appropriate advice given in the latter experiment. In the formal experiment, a 2 (bragging type: implicit vs explicit) x 2 (bragging content: warmth vs competence) between-subjects design was conducted to explore the influence of self-bragging type and content on advice taking, and the mediator role of decision maker's liking towards advice presenter. There were 80 college students who took part in the pre-experiment and 144 college students who took part in the formal experiment. The dependent variable was the level of advice-taking, which was calculated by the formula of WOA (weight of advice).

The statistical result showed that compared with implicit bragging, decision makers took less advice from advice presenters of explicit bragging; Compared with warmth braggarts, the level of advice taking was lower when advice presenters were competence braggarts. The relationship between types of bragging, content of bragging on advice taking was mediated by decision maker's liking toward advice presenters, which indicated that an implicit braggarts (vs explicit braggarts) or a warmth braggarts (vs competence braggarts) was more likeable, and hence raised the level of advice taking. The present study mainly contributes to literatures on antecedents of advice taking by showing that different types and content of self-bragging for advice presenters may function. In addition, this study differentiates 2 dimensions (i.e. types and content) of self-bragging and indicates the potential negative effect of explicit and competence bragging within social interactions. Therefore, if practitioners want others to take their recommendations, they can present their virtue, merits and warmth to leave positive image. However, it is unadvisable to praise themselves by showing self-superiority compared with others or to make much display of their own competence.

Key words types of bragging, content of bragging, advice taking, hubris hypothesis, persuasion effect