A review of Relational Distancing and Termination between Online Friends: An Application of the Investment Model

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1   Contribution

Does the article add new information to the body of knowledge on the topic. What implication does the information have for how the topic is understood Does it raise questions about accepted ways of understanding an issue, what is the most important question How would readers think differently after reading the article How might it be used in other work

2   Justification of Conclusions

In this section the way in which Carpenter & Tong (2017) justifies the conclusions reached in the paper is critiqued.

As the method of ignoring the annoyer became more permanent it was less likely to be enacted on by the primary users. Linear trend was seen Narcissism was related to the annoyers self reports of their own behaviour As the annoyers posting behaviour became more annoying the satisfaction of the primary user with the friendship became less Satisfaction was related to commitment of the friendship Positive associations between investment and commitment Quality of the primary users network was positively related to their assessments of other friendship alternatives (The more friendship alternatives the primary user has the more positive their network is to them) The quality of the friendship alternatives is negatively related to commitment Commitment to the relationship with the annoyer is negatively related to the intentions to unfriend, hide and skip past the annoyer First model had a poor fit with the data Modifications made to it the first being the intent to skip outcome. The relationship between it and commitment was lower than first thought. It was more related to the extent that the annoyer produced self focused messages. Not what the model predicted at first Investment was also identified as problematic with the model. It does not play as large a role in computer communication and was removed. After both of these variables were removed the model fits. Talk about the method used to obtain results. The paper uses a questionnaire to gather information on users behaviour to annoyers. Maybe the behaviour could be observed rather than quizzed.

3   Further Work

Research investigating the association of the investment model (IM) variables to the nuances of passive versus active behaviours is needed Research how annoyers respond to the primary users using distancing tactics on their posts and judging them for what they post Research more factors that encourage distancing over termination Offline factors may play a part in distancing or terminating a friend Intent measured rather than actual behaviour need to measure actual behaviour Do a larger study on the annoyers. Only a small amount of them were surveyed. Behaviour was put down as narcissistic but not a lot of evidence to support this Carpenter & Tong (2017)

References

Carpenter, C. J. & Tong, S. T. (2017), Relational distancing and termination between online friends: An application of the investment model, *in* 'Proceedings of the 2017 CHI Conference on Human Factors in Computing Systems', CHI '17, ACM, New York, NY, USA, pp. 6925–6935.
URL: *http://doi.acm.org/10.1145/3025453.3026026*