

2011

The effect of mood on attention to global and local characteristics of music

Pope, J.

Pope, J. (2011) 'The effect of mood on attention to global and local characteristics of music',
The Plymouth Student Scientist, 4(1), p. 259-275.

<http://hdl.handle.net/10026.1/13934>

The Plymouth Student Scientist
University of Plymouth

All content in PEARL is protected by copyright law. Author manuscripts are made available in accordance with publisher policies. Please cite only the published version using the details provided on the item record or document. In the absence of an open licence (e.g. Creative Commons), permissions for further reuse of content should be sought from the publisher or author.

Appendix A: Brief and Debrief

Brief

This experiment will involve listening to pairs of melodies and answering whether they are the same or different. You will first be shown a short film clip before listening to pairs of short melodies. After each pair has been presented you will be asked whether the melodies are the same or different. No previous musical knowledge is needed. The experiment will last no longer than 30 minutes and you will be awarded 1 point for this study. If you're sensitive to any subject matter which may be present within the film, or have any questions about the study please notify the experimenter now.

All the data collected in this experiment is confidential and your data will only be viewed by the researchers and project supervisor. If you wish for your data to be withdrawn from the study, you can do so up to 3 weeks after the study by e-mailing either of the researchers and quoting your participant number written at the top of your debrief. You have the right to withdraw from the experiment at any point; this will not stop you from receiving the participation point for this study.

Debrief

The aim of this study was to investigate the effect of mood on attention to global and local characteristics of music. Previous research in other fields of psychology has shown that mood can have an effect on what a person attends to or focuses on. For example in vision research, it has been found that people in a negative mood are more likely to attend to specific details of a stimulus (local), whereas people in a positive mood are more likely to attend to the stimulus as a whole (global). It is predicted that a similar effect will also be found for listening to music, however it is expected that those in the negative mood condition will attend to both the global and local characteristics of the music, whereas those in the positive mood condition will only attend to the global aspects. The results of the experiment will potentially provide valuable insight as to why people experience music differently.

In this experiment you will have been shown either a positive or negative film clip, in order to induce a positive or negative mood. The pairs of melodies you heard were either the same as each other, or differed globally or locally. If you have any further questions about the current or past research on this topic you can talk to the experimenter now or e-mail them later and they will be happy to answer any of your questions.

All the data collected in this experiment is confidential and your data will only be viewed by the researchers and project supervisor. If you wish for your data to be withdrawn from the study, you can do so up to 3 weeks after the study by e-mailing either of the researchers and quoting your participant number written at the top of this debrief.

Experimenters

Jenny Pope – jenny.pope@students.plymouth.ac.uk

Ewan Wakeman – ewan.wakeman@students.plymouth.ac.uk

Project Supervisor

Judy Edworthy – j.edworthy@plymouth.ac.uk