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APA PsycTests: Citation and Description

Facial Action Coding System

Ekman, P., & Friesen, W. V. (1978). *Facial Action Coding System (FACS)* [Database record]. APA PsycTests. https://doi.org/10.1037/t27734-000 (/doi/10.1037/t27734-000)

Description

The Facial Action Coding Systems (FACS; Ekman & Friesen, 1978) was derived from an analysis of the anatomical basis of facial movement and can reportedly be used to describe any facial movement, observed across a number of media, in terms of anatomically based action units. The development of the method is explained, contrasting it to other methods of measuring facial behavior. An example of how facial behavior is measured is provided, and ideas about research applications are discussed. FAC includes most but not all of the subtle differences in appearance which result from different muscle actions. The fineness of the scoring categories depends on what can be reliably distinguished when a facial movement is inspected repeatedly, and in stopped and slowed action. The authors report that for the six people who learned FAC, about 40 hours was required for them to learn and practice scoring. Reliability in scoring was said to be satisfactory. The formula used was to divide the number of action unit (AU) scores on which two persons agreed by the sum of the number of AUs scored by each person. The average coefficient of agreement among all possible pairings of the six persons across the faces they measured was .83. A newer version of the FACS was developed by Eckman, Friesen, and Hager (2002). (APA PsycTests Database Record (c) 2019 APA, all rights reserved)

Facial action coding system

P Ekman, WV Friesen - Environmental Psychology & Nonverbal ..., 1978 - psycnet.apa.org

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