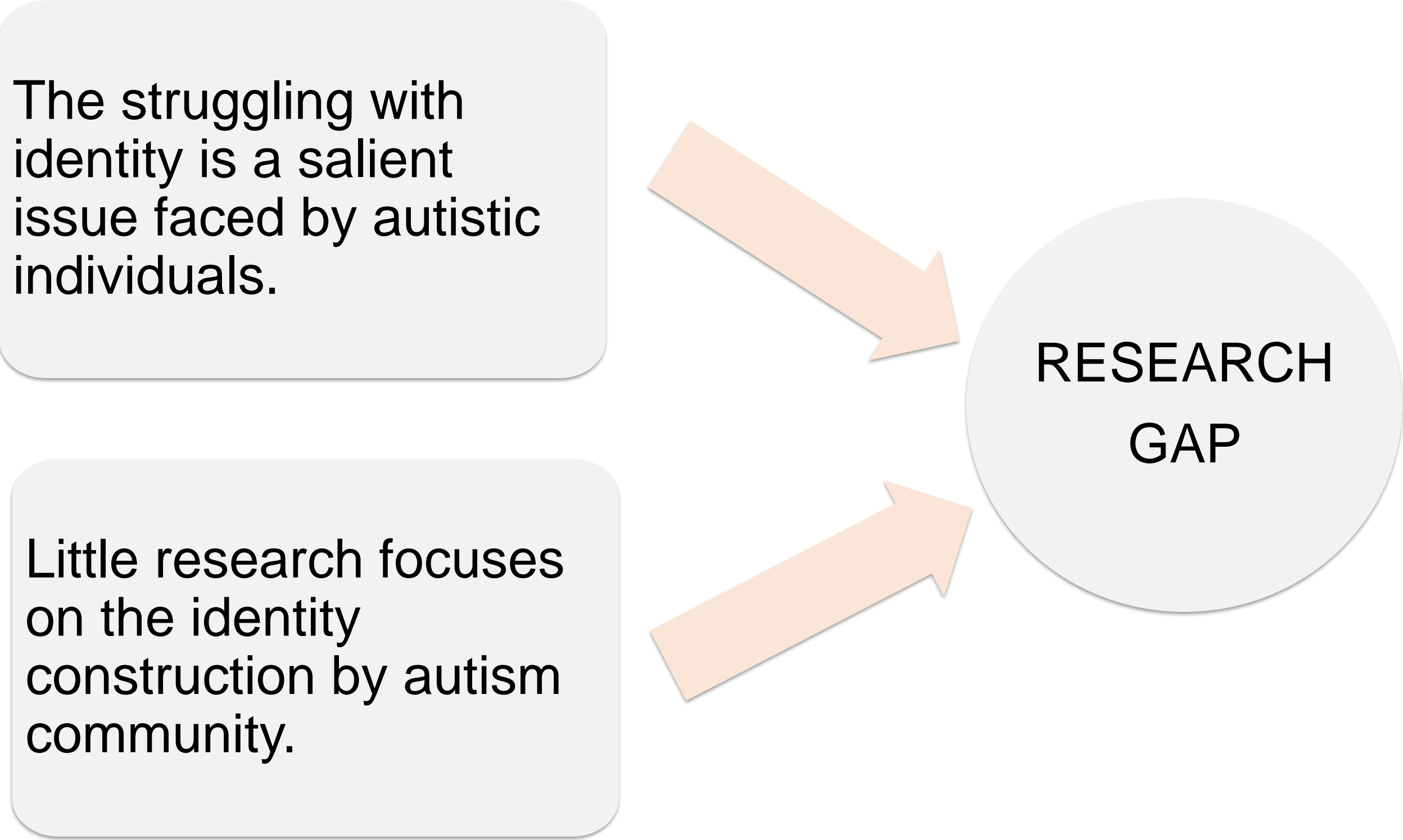


Identity Construction of Online Autism Community

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1. INTRODUCTION



2. OBJECTIVES

- What are the **themes** mostly talked about by the autism community?
- What are the **techniques** used by autistic individuals to construct their identity?
- What **implications** can professional communicators draw from this?

3. METHOD

Data source:

Discussion forum of WrongPlanet.com



Sample: (Last reply within January 1, 2018 to April 1, 2018)



Theoretical Framework: Social Construction of Reality (Brekhus, 2015)



4. RESULTS

A. Themes of Online Discussion

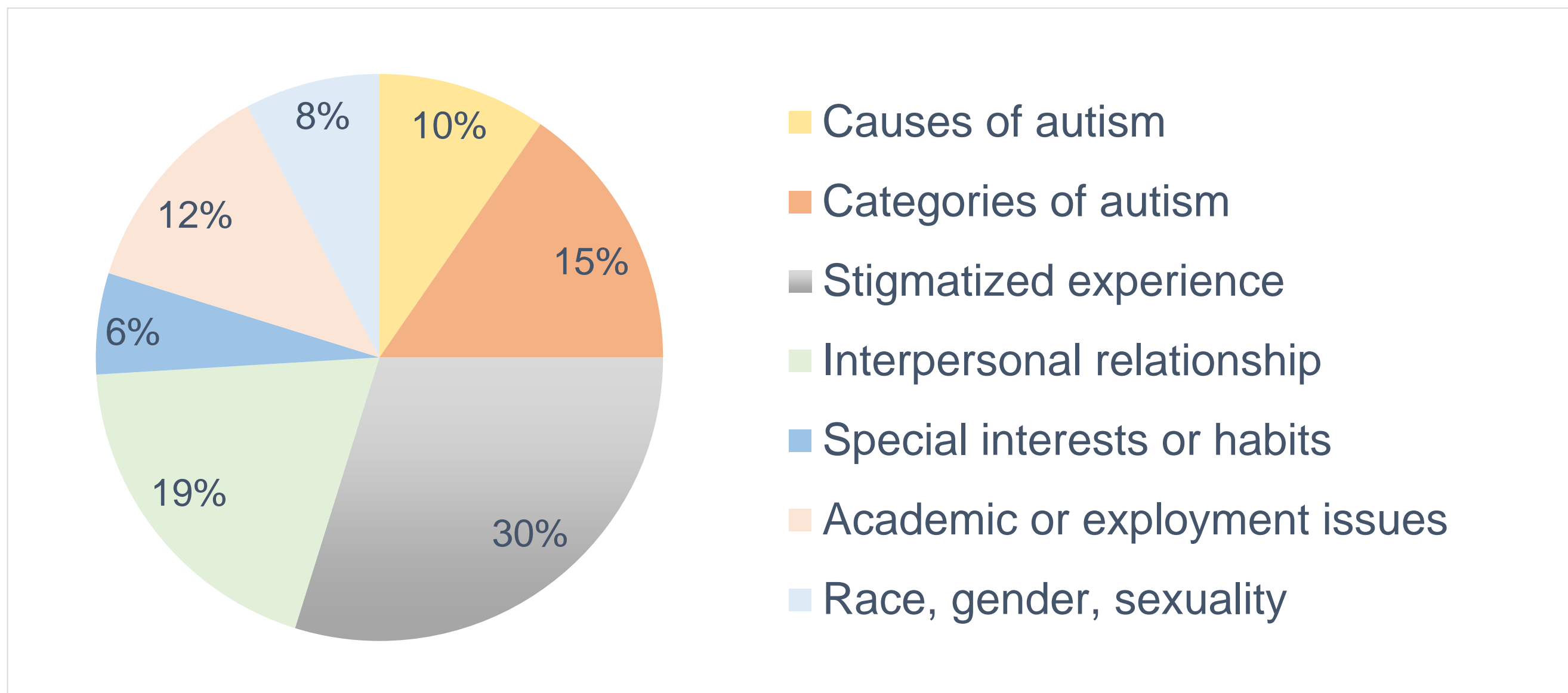


Figure 1. Common topics of autism community

B. Techniques of Identity Construction

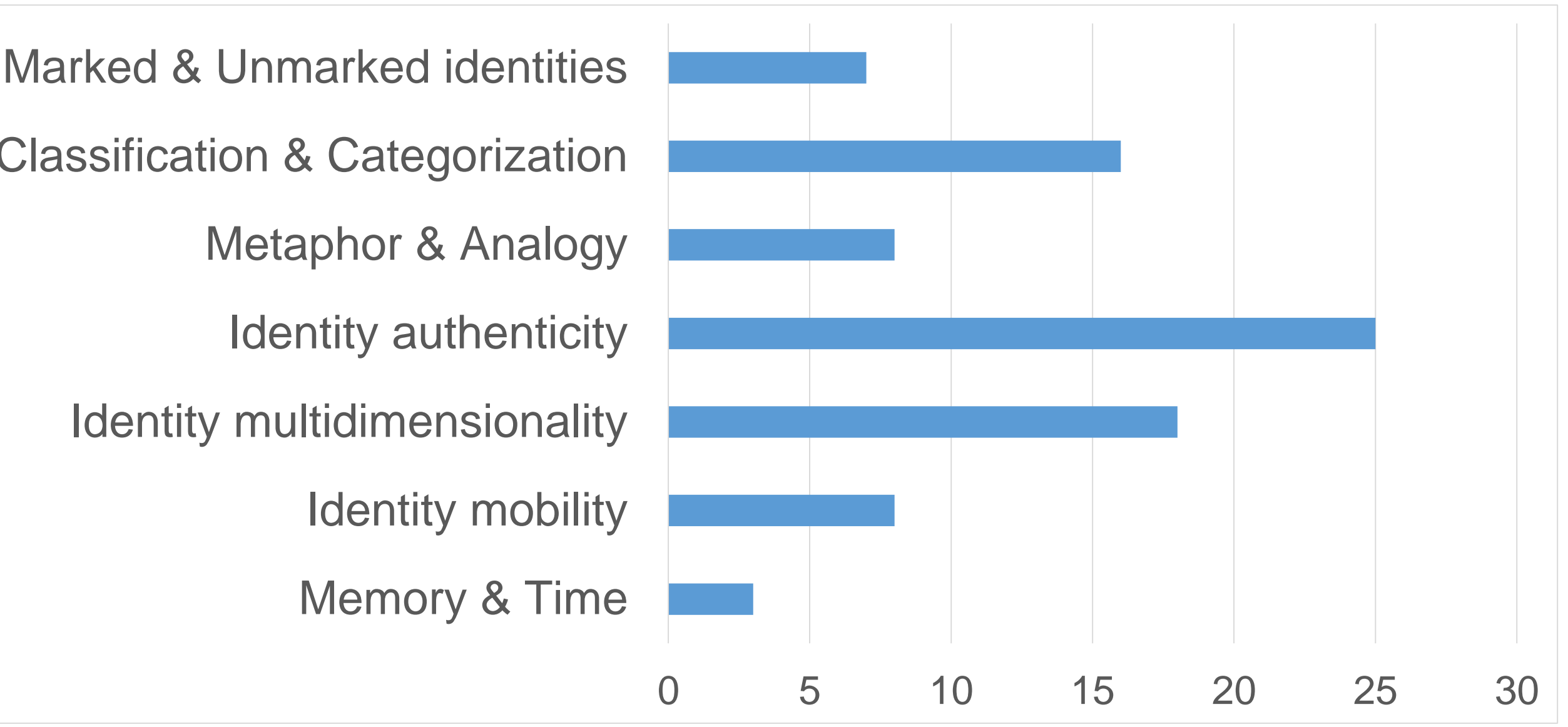
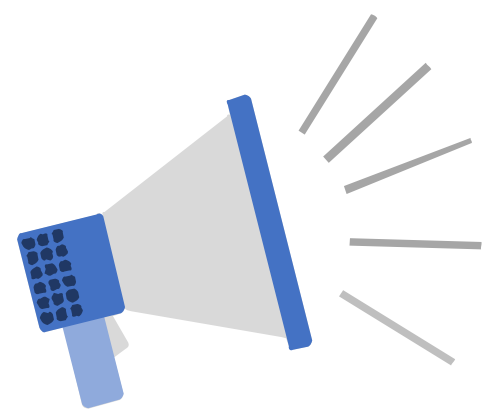


Figure 2. Major ways to construct identity

5. DISCUSSION

➤ Implications

- Raise public awareness of autism identity
- Scientific health education
- Produce unbiased content



➤ Future directions

- Cross-cultural comparison
- Visual construction
- Identity constructed by different entities

Example 1: Does this happen to anyone else? Does anyone else get treated like they are stupid? Is this an aspie thing?

Example 2: I'm often assumed to be male online, too, even if I have a very girly username.

6. REFERENCE

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