



University of
New Hampshire

Examining the Link Between the Cohesion of Individuals' Language and Creativity

LOL Lab

Language Of
Learning Lab

Est. 2019

Lauren E. Flynn & Laura K. Allen

Department of Psychology

Question:

What is the relationship between individual differences in divergent thinking skills and the structure (i.e., cohesion) of individuals' written responses under different language contexts?

Background:

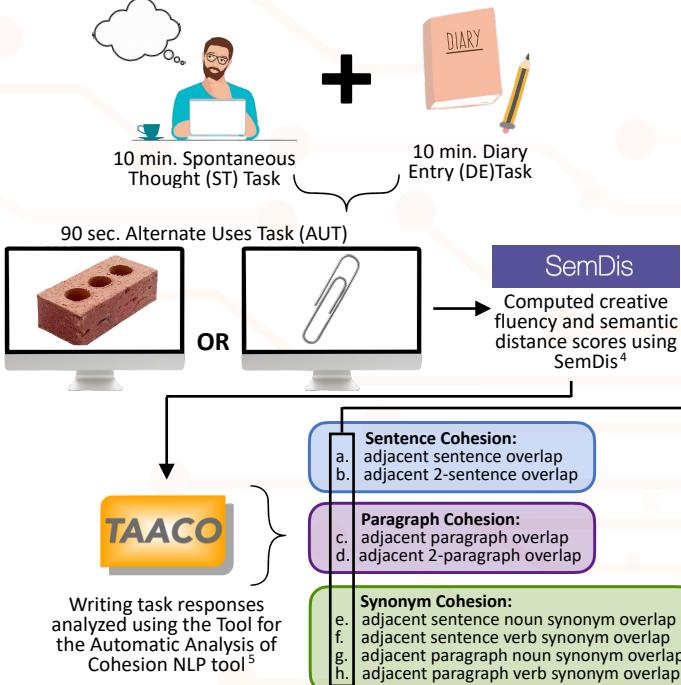
- Practicing creative writing positively relates to students' writing achievement¹
- Trait creativity correlated with increased number of words and abstract concepts used in thought-stream writing task²
- Divergent thinking related to creative metaphor generation³
- Gaps in literature:



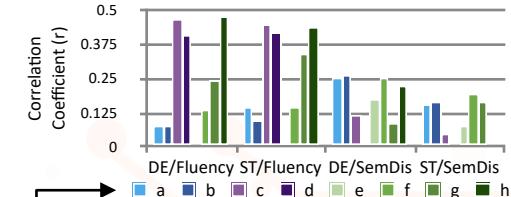
Abstract #1079

Methods:

All participants (N=73; Mage=19.59) completed 2 10-min writing tasks followed by a creativity assessment (AUT)



Results:



Discussion:

- Creativity positively related to cohesion in both writing tasks
 - Paragraph cohesion was most correlated
- Suggests creativity may be related to individuals' ability to coherently structure their ideas
- Creativity may help organize and track the flow of one's divergent thoughts

References:

- ¹Shih, S., & Kandemir, A. (2015). Effects of Creative Writing Activities on Students' Achievement in Writing, Writing Dispositions and Attitude toward English. *Procedia - Social and Behavioral Sciences*, 174, 1635-1642. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.sbspro.2015.01.815>.
- ²Zomorodi, M., & Kandemir, A. (2016). Effects of Style of Language Usage: Clues to Creativity. *Perceptual and Motor Skills*, 114(1), 43-50. <https://doi.org/10.2469/jpm.v114.43>
- ³Menache, S., Leishner, R., Herut, V., Kasher, A., Yatz, T., & Maruff, N. (2020). Evaluating the role of selective attention, divergent thinking, language abilities, and personality in metaphor generation. *Journal of Psychopathology and Behavioral Assessment*, 42, 107450. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s10802-020-09745-0>

⁴Menache, S., & Kasher, A. (2019). Automatic Creativity Assessment with SemDis: An Open Platform for Computing Semantic Distance [Preprint]. <https://arxiv.org/abs/1907.01274>

⁵Crossley, S. A., Kyle, K., & McNamee, D. S. (2016). The tool for the automatic analysis of text (TAACO): A semantic assessment of local, global, and tree cohesion. *Behavior Research Methods*, 48(4), 1227-1237. <https://doi.org/10.3758/s13428-015-0633-7>

#psynom21