PSYCH 350 Major Project 1

Grade 94

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One’s personality is always an interesting topic to talk about. I as a psychology student find projects on my personality interesting. I was excited to collect data about how others think about me because I never got an opportunity to do so in a formal way – rather than like asking how someone thinks about me. The data was collected from 7 people: one self-rating, five friends and one family member. In next few paragraphs, I will discuss how people perceive my personality traits in various ways.

Figure 1

Figure 2

In order to analyze which personality trait agrees with the self-rating, I compared the mean of others ratings and self-rating scores in Figure 1. This figure shows how others view of my personality traits are difference from self-ratings. Overall, self-ratings seem to be higher than others ratings. I think this is because self-ratings are more likely to have a stronger positive or negative opinions on most of the trait. Moreover, I have analyzed the difference between self-ratings and means of other’s ratings in Figure 2. According to the analysis, personality attributes that agreed with my self-ratings the most were extraversion, happiness, and intelligence. It is interesting to note that personality attributes that disagreed with my self-ratings the most were being ticklish. Moreover, we can see that I rated myself as more ticklish than others did. This can be due to how observable some traits are. For example, being ticklish is an intangible trait; most people cannot really tell whether I am ticklish or not if they haven’t tickled me.

On the other hand, traits that are more obvious and tangible are traits that mostly agreed with the self-rating such as happiness, extraversion, and intelligence. These traits tend to be easier to observe as friends because others can see whether I am happy, extraverted or intelligent from behavior and attitudes. For example, since I have high scores on being facially expressive on both self and other’s ratings, this can make myself more likely to express my feelings or thoughts to other people. Thus, making those traits agree upon both self-ratings and others ratings.

Figure 3

Figure 3 shows the difference between ratings of family and mean ratings of friends. The personality trait with the biggest difference is extraversion. Family rated my extraversion lower than my friends did. This means that my behavior is different when I am with my family compared to when I am with my friends. This is true to most people because people act differently according to who’s around them. Overall, my family seem to view me as more introverted – quiet, reserved and predictable. I also think I tend to behave in a way that most people thinks that is ideal to get along with everyone. Thus, try to act like an extrovert and be conscientious around friends.

Figure 4

Figure 4 is a graph of mean and standard deviation of self and others ratings of my personality traits. Higher standard deviation means that the data is spread to both axis in a distribution graph which means that traits with high standard deviations are the traits that people (including myself) perceive differently. Extraversion and being critical has the highest standard deviation among 28 personality traits. Also, being reserved and unpredictable have fairly high standard deviation as well. Since we have seen Figure 1 with both self-rating scores and mean of others rating scores and Figure 3 with friends’ rating scores and family’s rating scores, this contrary result – having a high standard deviation and having smallest difference between self-rating score and mean of other’s rating scores on extraversion and being critical – is because family perceived some traits differently than friends did.

Figure 5

Moreover, I found some data from zero-acquaintance test from my classmate interesting (Figure 5) because person who does not know much tend to scored my personality traits as more neutral – 2 (Disagree) or 3(Agree) rather than 1(Strongly disagree) or 4(Strongly agree). Although there can be some limitations and inaccuracy since the sample size is small and people can be prone to stereotypes, it is worth to think about which personality traits are perceived differently by others. I personally think most people conceal their true personality to some extent in order to meet the socially ideal personality to get along with people.