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Psyc 350

Project 1

Perception is the ruler of personality. In asking family and friends about how they perceive me, the results show it is not a uniform thought-not everyone views me the same way. Going through the results, it is interesting to point out the agreements and disagreements.

Let us begin by assessing the agreements. If the difference between my own assessment and the mean of my family/friends/coworkers’ assessments is 0, then the sentiment that others agree with me is true. If the difference is greater than or less than zero, then not everyone agreed with me. Everyone agreed with me when I answered “Disagree” for “Luke is artistic.” The reason I think everyone was able to accurately assess this trait is because it is something that, if true, I would express given my level of extraversion (which was almost unanimously “agreed” that I am, in fact, extraverted). Another trait that most people agreed with me is that I am facially expressive. Here, the difference was .25, but on a 4 point scale this is only a 6.25% difference, enough to prove significance. I think this is due to my extraversion and perceived level of happiness (which I will touch on later) and the fact that I frequently make silly faces. I didn’t find this surprising. A third trait mostly agreed by my family and friends is that I am dependable, self-disciplined. Once again, the difference was .25, enough to prove significance. I think this is due to how I present myself: always concerned about my future, always planning ahead for events, and able to express concern for others and give advice. This did not surprise me.

Furthermore, I believe it is more telling to look at the disagreements between how I view myself and how others do. Here is where large differences between my score and the mean of others should be greater than or less than zero. For instance, the largest discrepancies were between “Anxious, easily upset” and “Happy, satisfied with life.” I believe how I present myself is the largest factor for either of these traits. It is important to remember personality is in the eye of the beholder. Being anxious/easily upset is something that can be hidden. I said that I agreed with the statement whereas my friends and family all said either “Disagree” or “Strongly disagree.” In this case, the difference was 1.75, showing that there is a significant disagreement between me and my family, friends, and coworkers. I think this is because I am someone who is always worried about my future and career. Anxiety is something that can kept from being seen and since it normally revolves around my job, it is seen as more of a professional concern rather than being chronically anxious. This did not surprise me given that this is something I generally keep to myself. In addition to anxiety, there was a discrepancy between how happy/satisfied with life I am and how happy/satisfied with life others think I am. This is another trait I keep hidden from others most of the time. Here, the difference was -2.5, a strong difference from agreeing with me and in the opposite meaning so they think I’m much happier than I think I am. This is the attribute which I and others saw myself in the most divergent of ways, but for which others tended to agree with one another. I viewed myself as “Strongly disagree” and everyone else either agreed or strongly agreed. Once again, I think this is because of the pressures of job hunting and personal expectations. To be satisfied with life, I would need a job lined up for next fall/summer. At this time, I do not have one, so my life satisfaction is lower than it could be. Once again, this did not surprise me. Lastly, when considering the zero-acquaintance data, the two traits that I found most interesting were “Facially expressive” and “Open to new experiences, complex.” For both, I put strongly agree but my partner put disagree. I think this was because we had just met each other and at first glance, I can seem uninterested or bored, so my partner responded in kind.

Thematically, there seems to be a trend towards believing I am more relaxed and happy than I actually am. I’m always applying to jobs and voicing my consideration for multiple career paths while being able to hold executive positions on campus. I believe these concerns along with my ability to come off as calm and collected makes others assume I know what I’m doing and that I am happy and relaxed. In reality, I am more concerned for my future than ever and every day I am hoping I get an email from one of the recruiters saying I got the job.

Finally, differing opinions between family, coworkers, and friends are evident in the data. The most striking examples are that of the traits “Spiritual or religious” and “Ticklish.” Both of these two traits are things that my coworkers would not know about me given our relationship; however, my family and friends have either seen me tickled or tickled me themselves, so they know I am actually very ticklish.

In conclusion, personality is something viewed differently by everyone. Depending on our relationship, people were more accurate than others. My family and friends were more accurate than my coworkers or zero-acquaintance partner. In the future, I think it would be interesting to get an employer, club member, or teacher to take this assessment.