

Title of Work:

Autism-related language preferences of English-speaking individuals across the globe: A mixed methods investigation

Conference:

Research Article (2022) in “Autism Research”, Volume 16, Issue 2, Feb 2023, Pages 245-473

Rationale to ensure venue quality:

Autism Research is an international journal which publishes research relevant to Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) and closely related neurodevelopmental disorders. The journal is co-owned and supported by The International Society for Autism Research (INSAR) and Wiley.

Problem Statement:

Over the past two decades, there have been increasing discussions around the suitability of identity-first language and person-first language. The discussions are never ending and do not have a clear consensus around what is the appropriate or preferred communication style, especially for the autistic community.

Paper Synopsis:

- The current study adopted a mixed-methods approach, employing both quantitative and qualitative techniques, to explore the linguistic preferences of 654 English-speaking autistic adults across the globe.
- With a combination of a brief survey, the data analysis was done for quantitative insights along with thematic analysis on the open questions on preferences.

Takeaways:

- Despite relative consensus across groups, both the quantitative and qualitative data demonstrate that there is no universally accepted way to talk about autism.
- The thematic analysis revealed the reasons underlying participants' preferences, generating six core themes, and illuminated an important guiding principle—to respect personal preferences.
- These findings have significant implications for informing practice, research and language policy worldwide.

Future Work:

This research study can be extended into the context of using LLM in day to day lives and observe how the difference in responses of Humans VS LLM tools work.

Improvements:

I could not think of any improvement in the paper apart from the length of the paper being exceptionally long due to the addition of quotes by the survey participants. While it didn't contribute to hindering the readability aspect of the paper, it could have been a bit more organized.

Replication:

I think this work has the potential to be replicated in the context of more widened approach of preferred communication across autistic communities. Because the research study was equally quantitative and qualitative in its mixed approach setting, it strikes a good balance in addressing the problem statement.