

SQP Codebook for Linguistic characteristics

Social Desirability

1. Not present
2. A bit
3. A lot

Socially desirable responses can occur when the respondent thinks that some response categories are more approved of by society than others.

Topics where this can occur are: voting behavior, behavior related to addiction, crimes, illnesses, sexual behavior, charity, financial matters, and being a well informed and cultured person.

The choice of the category is of course a subjective estimate.

Centrality

1. Not at all central/salient
2. A bit central
3. Rather central
4. Central
5. Very central/salient

Some topics are more central in the mind of the respondents than other topics.

For example, "the use of solar powered cars" versus "satisfaction with your job".

Introduction available?

1. Available
2. Not available

Introductions mainly serve to initiate the topic of the Request for an Answer to the respondent and consist of one or more sentences.

Examples could be:

Now, a couple of questions follow about your health.

The next question deals with your work.

Sometimes a survey item contains two requests where the first request just functions as an introduction because no answer is required. The second request is the one to be answered as indicated by the answer categories.

Example:

Would you mind telling me your race or ethnic origin?

Are you white black, Hispanic American, Alaskan native, Asian or Pacific Islander?

Number of sentences in introduction

Type of characteristic: numeric

The following rules are enforced when coding this characteristic:

- You must make a choice.
- The choice must be numeric.
- The number should be smaller than 1000.

The program provides an automatic suggestion for this characteristic.

Number of sentences in the question

Type of characteristic: numeric

The following rules are enforced when coding this characteristic:

- You must make a choice.
- The choice must be numeric.
- The number must be smaller than or equal to the number of words in the request for an answer.

The program provides an automatic suggestion for this characteristic.

Number of words in introduction

Type of characteristic: numeric

The following rules are enforced when coding this characteristic:

- You must make a choice.
- The choice must be numeric.
- The number should be smaller than 1000.
- The number must be greater than or equal to the number of sentences.

The program provides an automatic suggestion for this characteristic.

Number of subordinated clauses in introduction

Type of characteristic: numeric

Complex sentences link ideas together. They contain main and subordinate clauses. A main clause is one that is self-contained, that can act as a free-standing sentence. The subordinate clause cannot make sense alone but depends on the main clause for its meaning. It is very often heralded by a conjunction which suggests its dependent status, for example "Please answer using this card, where 0 means extremely dissatisfied and 10 means extremely satisfied."

There are some cases where the subordinate clause cannot be removed without affecting the meaning of the sentence. These clauses are embedded in that they have to stay put. The commonest conjunction to introduce an embedded clause is that used when speech or thought is reported, for example, "Do you think that you could take an active role in a group involved with political issues?".

Common subordinators: after, when, since, as, whenever, while, until, where, as, since, because, if, although, unless, as long as, except, yet, whereas, otherwise, as well as, who, which, that, whose.

The following rules are enforced when coding this characteristic:

- You must make a choice.
- The choice must be numeric.
- The number should be smaller than 1000.

Number of words in question

Type of characteristic: numeric

The following rules are enforced when coding this characteristic:

- You must make a choice.
- The choice must be numeric.
- The number should be smaller than 1000.

The program provides an automatic suggestion for this characteristic.

Total number of nouns in request for an answer

Type of characteristic: numeric

The following rules are enforced when coding this characteristic:

- You must make a choice.
- The choice must be numeric.
- The number must be smaller than or equal to the number of words in the request for an answer.

The program provides an automatic suggestion for this characteristic.

Total number of abstract nouns in request for an answer

Type of characteristic: numeric

Abstract nouns indicate **objects which in principle can not be touched**; thus no living beings or physical objects.

Government is an abstract noun but the moon is not.

The following rules are enforced when coding this characteristic:

- You must make a choice.
- The choice must be numeric.
- The number must be smaller than or equal to the number of words in the request for an answer.
- The number must be smaller than or equal to the total number of nouns in request for an answer.

Total number of syllables in question

Type of characteristic: numeric

Please count the **total number** of syllables for all of the words in all sentences in the question.

The following rules are enforced when coding this characteristic:

- You must make a choice.
- The choice must be numeric.
- The number must be greater than or equal to the number of words in the request for an answer.

The program provides an automatic suggestion for this characteristic.

Number of subordinate clauses in question

Type of characteristic: numeric

Complex sentences link ideas together. They contain main and subordinate clauses. A main clause is one that is self-contained, that can act as a free-standing sentence. The subordinate clause cannot make sense alone but depends on the main clause for its meaning. It is very often heralded by a conjunction which suggests its dependent status, for example "Please answer using this card, where 0 means extremely dissatisfied and 10 means extremely satisfied."

There are some cases where the subordinate clause cannot be removed without affecting the meaning of the sentence. These clauses are embedded in that they have to stay put. The commonest conjunction to introduce an embedded clause is that used when speech or thought is reported, for example, "Do you think that you could take an active role in a group involved with political issues?"

Common subordinators: after, when, since, as, whenever, while, until, where,as, since, because, if, although, unless, as long as, except, yet, whereas, otherwise, as well as, who, which, that, whose.

The following rules are enforced when coding this characteristic:

- You must make a choice.
- The choice must be numeric.
- The number should be smaller than 1000.

Number of syllables in answer categories

Type of characteristic: numeric

The following rules are enforced when coding this characteristic:

- The number must be greater than or equal to the number of words in the answer categories.

The program provides an automatic suggestion for this characteristic.

Total number of nouns in answer categories

Type of characteristic: numeric

The following rules are enforced when coding this characteristic:

- You must make a choice.
- The choice must be numeric.
- The number must be smaller than or equal to the number of words in the answer categories.
- The number should be smaller than 1000.

The program provides an automatic suggestion for this characteristic.

Total number of abstract nouns in answer categories

Type of characteristic: numeric

The following rules are enforced when coding this characteristic:

- You must make a choice.
- The choice must be numeric.
- The number must be smaller than or equal to the total number of nouns in the answer categories.
- The number should be smaller than 1000.