

The Effect of Psychoticism, Psychopathic Deviation & Suspiciousness in Elicitation of Idiosyncratic Word Association on Word Association Test Performance

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ABSTRACT

The present study investigated the role of psychoticism, psychopathic deviation and suspiciousness in elicitation of idiosyncratic word associations on word association test performance. It was hypothesized that psychoticism, psychopathic deviation and suspiciousness has no significant interactive effect on elicitation of idiosyncratic word associations. To test the hypothesis the response 200 male post graduate students for psychoticism, psychopathic deviation, suspiciousness and word association test performance were subjected to a computerised statistical analysis through SPSS 10.0 versions for group's statistics of median, mean std. deviation and std. error mean. Analysis of variance was computed. In the light of results obtained it is found that psychopathic deviation, psychoticism and suspiciousness has no interactive effect on idiosyncratic word associations and thus entire set of null hypothesis stands accepted.

Keywords: *Psychoticism, psychopathic deviation, suspiciousness, idiosyncratic word associations, word association test performance*

Knowledge of the phenomenon of association of ideas and a search for principles governing the reinstatement of ideas previously experienced can be traced to Plato Aristotle. Based on their observations, three laws known as association by contiguity, similarity and contrast were taught throughout the ages by philosophers. Locks coined the phrase "association of ideas." In Britain, the co-called associationism" of the philosophers. These schools of psychology, which studied conscious mental states, flourished in the nineteen century. The teachings spread to France and Germany. By the end of the nineteen-century experimental psychologist claimed that mental phenomena that cannot be measured and numbered are unscientific.

Association between ideas as represented by words was one of the lines of enquiry pursued by Wundt in his search for universals. The word association test, the grandfather of projective techniques has a rich history. The systematic study of word association was begun by Francis

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Galton (1885) with himself as subject. He exposed written stimulus words one at a time and noted with stop-watch the time required for response word, its general relation to the stimulus word, and the consistency with which the same response words occurred to a given stimulus. He concluded that the response were not random in character but represented well-worn ruts of the mind in which thought continually travelled. Some 40 percent of these associations dated back to his boyhood, 45 percent to his manhood, and 15 percent to recent events. The recent associations were the least stable. Galton appears to have recognized what would now be called the projective potentialities of his observation. Setting aside as 'too absurd' the idea of publishing his own responses (the experiments were self- administrated) in full of author assets : “ They lay bare the foundations of man’s thoughts with a curious distinctness and exhibit his mental anatomy with more vividness and truth than he would probably care to publish to the world” (Galton, 1879).

Several kinds of word association test; for example ones by Jung (1910), Kent and Rosanoff (1910), Rappaport, Schafer, & Gill (1946) and Upmanyu (1981) have been widely used for examining the psychological process of psychiatric patient and of normals.

From this method, clues to the personality of the subject were usually obtained in three typical ways : (1) By analyzing the commonness or unusualness of the subject’s responses as compared to norms for his culture for a diagnostic group ;(2) by analyzing the stimulus words on which the subject “ blocks” - that is words on which his reaction time, nature of response, or behavior deviates from his usual reaction; and (3) by analyzing the association or actual responses to stimulus words on which the subject shows emotional disturbance, for example, blocking or otherwise. A variety of other signs of emotional disturbance have also been described and the authors were able to verify the validity of many of the common signs of indicators.

In associating to a stimulus word, an individual without emotional maladjustment generally respond to a word association test with conventional associations conceptually related to the stimulus word (Rappaort, Schafer & Gill, 1946). In the emotionally disturbed individual, deviations from the conventional conceptual mode of responding are to be expected and are indicators of association disturbance. Bleuler (1950) regarded incoherence as one of the basic symptoms of schizophrenia. Likewise, Buss (1966) pointed out that schizophrenic typically emit more deviant or unique responses in word association tasks than normals.

Several other studies using the Kent-Romanoff word association list with schizophrenics have reported that they produce more uncommon, idiosyncratic associations than normals or other psychiatric patients (Johnson, Weiss, & Zelhart, 1964; Deering, 1963). On the basis of all these facts and thoughts the study is designed in order to carry on the following.

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Objectives

To understand the interactive effect of psychoticism, psychopathic deviation and suspiciousness on idiosyncratic word associations.

Hypothesis

1. Psychoticism and psychopathic deviation will have no interactive effect on elicitation of idiosyncratic word association.
2. Psychopathic deviation and suspiciousness will have no interactive effect on elicitation of idiosyncratic word association.
3. Psychoticism and suspiciousness will have no interactive effect on elicitation of idiosyncratic word association.
4. Psychoticism, psychopathic deviation and suspiciousness will have no interactive effect on elicitation of idiosyncratic word association.

Sample

200 male postgraduate university students comprise the sample for the present investigation. The variable of gender has been controlled because researchers have shown differences in word association test performance of male and females.

Tools

For this purpose, the following test tools were considered with their reliability, validity and objectivity mentioned in their respective manuals

- i. Word Association Test (Kent-Rosanoff, 1910).
- ii. Minnesota Multiphasic Personality Inventory: Pd-Scale (Hathaway & Mckinley, 1967).
- iii. Eysenck Personality Questionnaire: P-Scale (Eysenck & Eysenck, 1975).
- iv. Suspiciousness questionnaire (Rawlings & Freeman, 1996)

Procedure

All tests were administered individually as well as of small groups, while collecting data for the study. Prior to administration of each test or scale, appropriate rapport was formed. Before attempting the questionnaire, the subjects were requested to read the instructions carefully and follow them in true spirits.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

To test the hypothesis the response of 200 male post graduate students for psychoticism and idiosyncratic word association was subjected to computerized statistical analysis through SPSS 10.0 versions for group's statistics of median mean std. deviation, std. error mean.

The table shows that there is no significant the main effect ($F=1.387$) of psychopathic deviation ($F=3.442$), psychoticism ($F=0.017$) and suspiciousness ($F=1.365$) on idiosyncratic word associations. The obtained F values are not acceptable even at 0.005 level of confidence. Besides the 2-way interactions between PD & P (0.595), PD & S (0.061) and P &

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S (0.201) are not acceptable even at 0.005 level of confidence. The 3-way interactions among PD, P & S (0.117) is also not acceptable even at 0.005 level of confidence.

In the light of results obtained it is found that psychopathic deviation, psychoticism and suspiciousness has no significant main and interactive effect on idiosyncratic word associations and thus entire set of null hypothesis stands accepted.

Table 1 Showing interaction effect of psychopathic deviation & psychoticism, psychopathic deviation & suspiciousness and psychoticism & suspiciousness on idiosyncratic word associations.

Variables	F Value	Significance
Psychopathic Deviation & Psychoticism	0.595	Non Significant
Psychopathic Deviation & Suspiciousness	0.061	Non Significant
Psychoticism & Suspiciousness	0.201	Non Significant

Table 1 shows that the F value of psychopathic deviation & psychoticism on idiosyncratic word associations is 0.595, which is non-significant at both (0.01 and 0.05) levels. So our null hypothesis psychoticism and psychopathic deviation will have no interactive effect on elicitation of idiosyncratic word association is accepted. The F value of psychopathic deviation & suspiciousness on idiosyncratic word associations is 0.061, which is non-significant at both (0.01 and 0.05) levels. So our null hypothesis psychopathic deviation and suspiciousness will have no interactive effect on elicitation of idiosyncratic word association is accepted. Similarly, the F value of psychopathic deviation, psychoticism and suspiciousness on idiosyncratic word associations is 0.201, which also non-significant at both (0.01 and 0.05) levels. So our null hypothesis psychoticism and suspiciousness will have no interactive effect on elicitation of idiosyncratic word association is accepted.

Table 2 Showing interaction effect of psychopathic deviation, psychoticism, & suspiciousness on idiosyncratic word associations.

Variables	F Value	Significance
Psychopathic Deviation, Psychoticism & Suspiciousness	0.117	Non Significant

Table 2 shows that the F value of psychopathic deviation, psychoticism and suspiciousness on idiosyncratic word associations is 0.117, which is non-significant at both (0.01 and 0.05) levels. So, our null hypothesis psychoticism, psychopathic deviation and suspiciousness will have no interactive effect on elicitation of idiosyncratic word association is accepted.

CONCLUSION

In the light of results obtained it is found that psychopathic deviation, psychoticism and suspiciousness has no significant interactive effect on idiosyncratic word associations.

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