

A Structure Analysis of Chinese Emotions

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The structure of Chinese emotions was studied by first searching as exhaustively as possible those Chinese emotion words that were used by present-day Chinese in everyday life situations, excluding those of arousal, self-oriented emotion, and emotion-change words. A total of 305 terms were thus collected and then classified into 30 categories of emotion, including the 10 categories, which are claimed to be important and primary across Confucian school, Buddhism, and traditional Chinese medicine, and the other 20 categories. The 30 categories and their superordinate concept, emotion, formed a total of 465 pairs for participants in Experiment 1 to rate the similarity of each paired items on a 11-point scale. Resultant 31×31 similarity data matrix was then analyzed by a 2- and 3-dimensional scaling and an additive tree clustering method. Results of a nearest neighbor analysis show that the centrality and reciprocity computed from the additive tree solution fitted those of observed data much better than did those computed from the multidimensional scaling solutions. The additive tree model was also supported by the finding of Experiment 2 that the model was sensitive to a change in structure by revealing a change in centrality and reciprocity. The results of the additive tree analysis suggest that the 30 Chinese emotion categories can be grouped into 8 different clusters based on the features of evaluation, arousal level, kind of threat, arousal level caused by threat, target of emotional reaction. The 8 clusters are discussed with the 7 primary emotions proposed by the three oriental theories of 7-emotions and Ekman's (1972) 6 basic emotions

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