

The Self-enhancement Effect at the Implicit Perceptual and Explicit Evaluation Levels: Their Independent Relationship





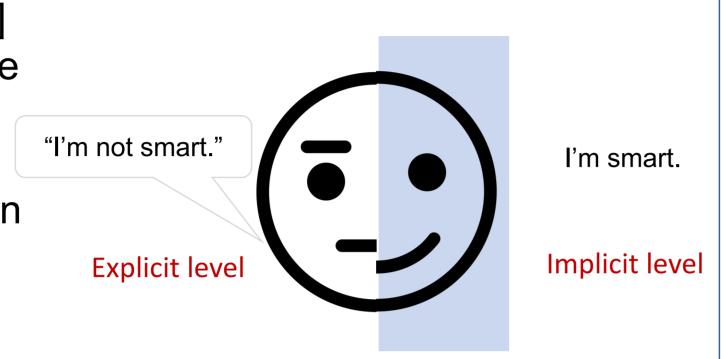


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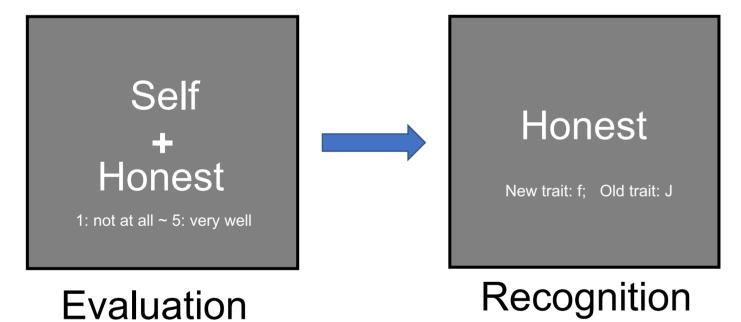
Introduction

- Self-Enhancement Effect (SEE): people tend to have an overly positive self-view [1]
- This effect has been poorly examined at the implicit perceptual level and its relationship to the explicit level and their relationships.
- It is less consistently reported in the eastern cultures
- Purpose: whether self-enhancement effect also exists at the perceptual level and their relationship



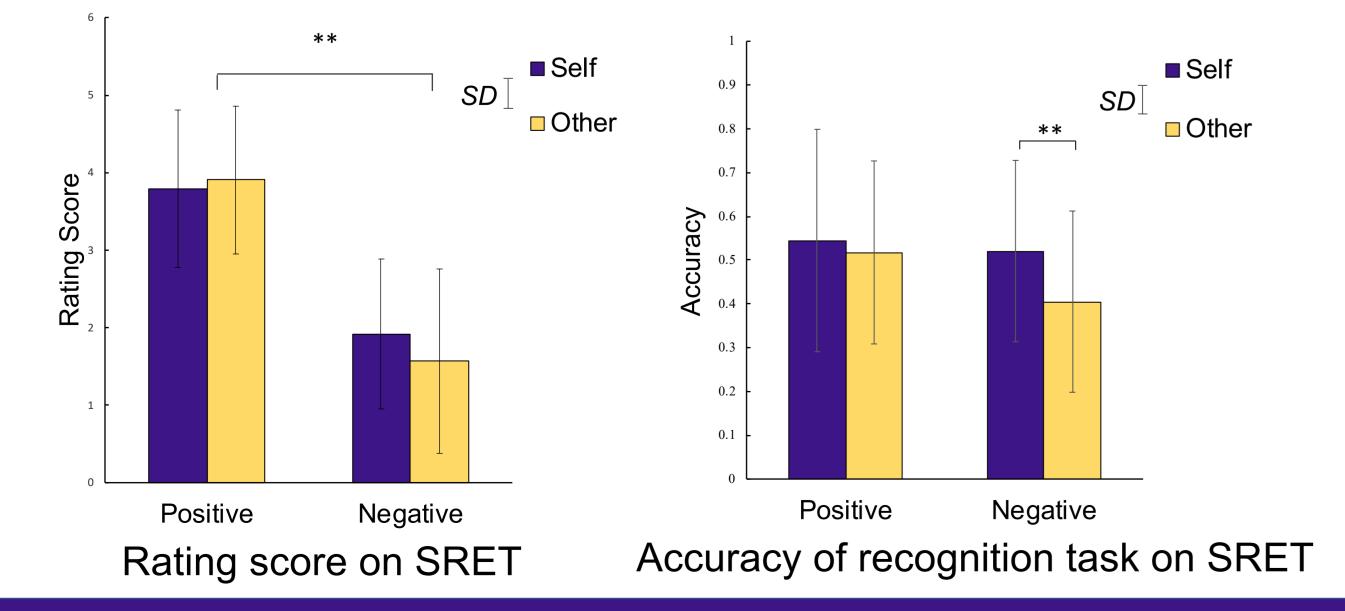
Methods & Results

- Participants:
 - 86 Chinese university students (22 male, Mean age = 20.19 ± 1.37)
- Explicit Level Task
- [Task. 1] Self-Referential Encoding Task (SRET)
- 1. Evaluation: Rate how suitable the adjective can describe themselves or their friend from 1 (not at all) to 5 (very much)
- 2. Recognition: Judge 160 words whether the word was evaluated or not before
- (80 words were used on the evaluation and 80 words were not)



Results

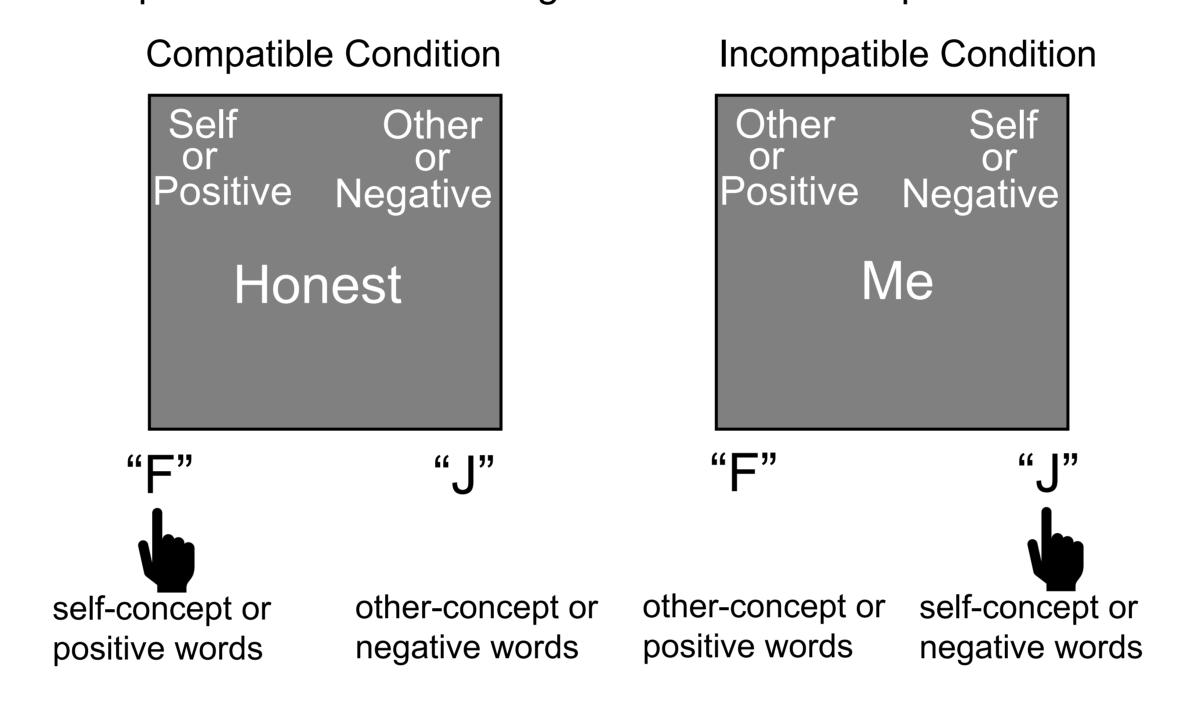
- Evaluation:
- Difference between self and other: n.s.
- Both of self and other were evaluated more positively (p < .001)
- Recognition:
- Positive trait recognition accuracy between self and other: n.s.
- Participants remembered negative self-related words better other-related words (p < .001)



Implicit Level Task

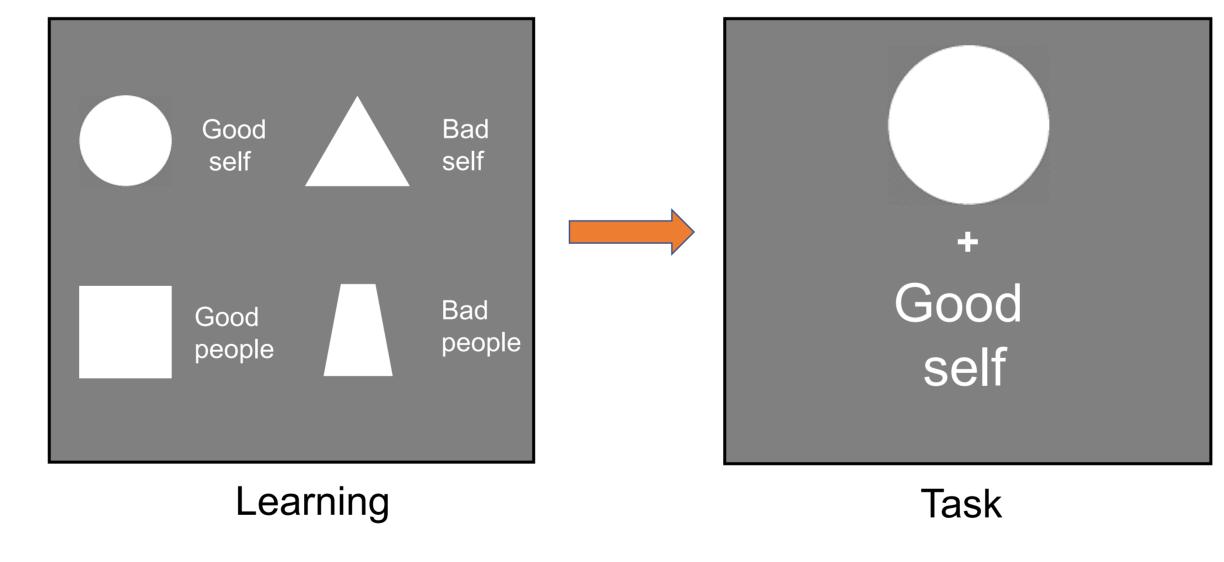
• [Task. 2] Implicit Association Task (IAT)

- Categorize identity-concept word into two concept categories
- OR categorize adjective word into two attribute categories
- Compatible condition: positive word and "self" on the same side
- Incompatible condition: change "self" and "other" position



• [Task. 3] Association Learning Task (ALT)

- 1. Learn: the associations between 4 shapes and 4 labels
- 2. Task: Judge whether the shape corresponds with label



Results

- [Task. 2]
- Based on Greenwald, Nosek, & Banaji (2003)[2], D = 0.402.
- Participants reacted faster to positive trait words and self-concept words (p < .001)

• [Task. 3]

- Participants reacted **faster** to positive words and self pair (p < .001)
- Participants' performance was better in the positive self condition (p < .001)

Self Self Sol Other Sol Other Self Sol Other Sol Ot

	Explicit Level Task [Task 1]		Implicit Level Task [Task 2, 3]	
Task	Evaluation	Recognition	IAT	ALT
SE exists or not	No	NO (Opposite to SE)	Yes	Yes

[Cross Task]

- Across these four tasks, we didn't find significant correlations,
 two explicit tasks are not correlated with two implicit tasks
- Two explicit tasks are not correlated
- Two implicit tasks are not correlated

Discussions

- Previous studies about self-enhancement effect
- Self-enhancement effect is a robust effect among Westerners at the explicit level [3], but not in Eastern cultures due to modest [1]
- The self-enhancement effect are distinct on attentional and perceptual domains [4]
- Our result is consistent with the previous study [1,3,4]
- Implicit self-enhancement effect might exist in China
- Two different perceptual tasks showed different selfenhancement effect

Conclusions

- Self-enhancement effect existed in the implicit perceptual level in the Eastern, but opposite on explicit level (self-criticism).
- The implicit self-enhancement effect across different cognitive domains are distinctive

References