



Personality, Linguistic Competence, and Social Evaluation as a Predictor of Second Language Learners Social Anxiety

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Abstract

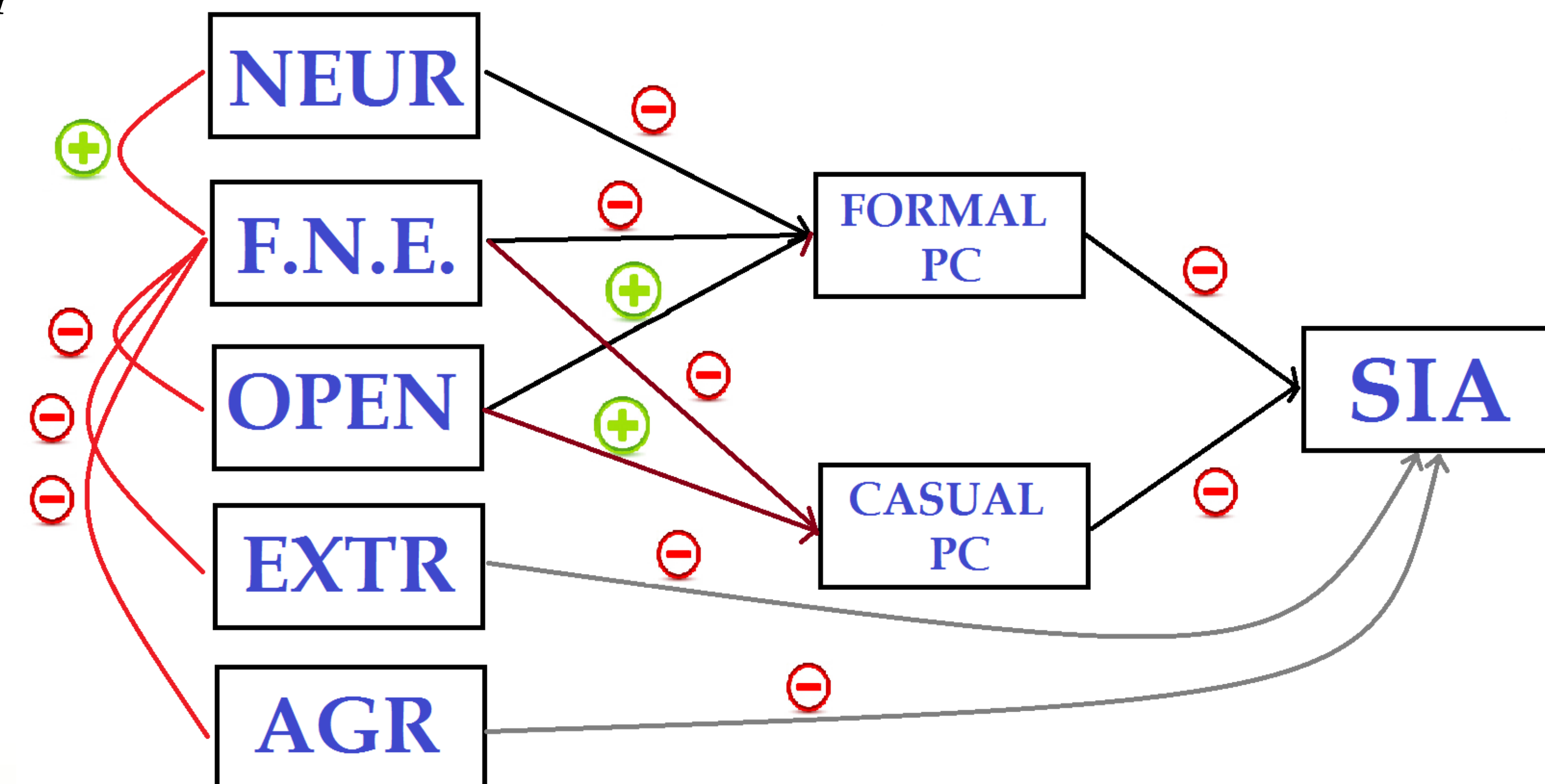
The idea of how social interaction anxiety is related to language competence, fear of negative evaluation, and personality has led to the following research questions. 1. How are formal perceived competence, casual perceived competence, and Fear of Negative Evaluation correlated? 2. Do personality factors and FNE predict SIA? We predict the effects of the personality factors as follows: openness to new experiences will have a positive correlation with formal perceived competence and casual perceived competence but a negative correlation with FNE. Neuroticism will have a negative correlation with casual perceived competence, no correlation with formal perceived competence and a positive correlation with FNE. Extraversion will have a negative correlation with FNE and a positive correlation with casual perceived competence, but no correlation with formal perceived competence. Agreeableness will have a negative correlation with FNE but a positive correlation with formal and casual perceived competence. Conscientiousness will not have any correlations with FNE, formal perceived competence, or casual perceived competence.

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Introduction:

- Can fear of negative evaluation, personality factors, and language competence be used to predict social interaction anxiety in English as a second language students?
- Social anxiety is the fear of communication with friends or strangers that leads to self-consciousness, feelings of being criticized and judged (Mattick & Clarke, 1998)
- Fear of negative evaluation (FNE) is the nervousness and anguish arising from worries about being judged despairingly or bitterly by others (Carleton, McCreary, Norton, & Asmundson, 2006)

Purpose:

- To identify how are formal perceived competence, casual perceived competence, and Fear of Negative Evaluation correlated
- To identify if personality factors and FNE predict SIA

Participants:

- 100 needed
- English as a second language learners
- Students
- At least 18 years old

Experimental Task:

- To investigate these relationships, the researchers will conduct a structural assessment using measures of:
 - four of the five personality factors (Neuroticism, Openness to Experience, Extraversion, and Agreeableness); M5-50 Questionnaire (McCord, 2002)
 - FNE; Brief Fear of Negative Evaluation Scale, Straightforward Items (Carleton, Collimore, McCabe, & Antony, 2011)
 - perceived competence in the formal form of English as a second language; Self-Perceived Communication Competence Scale (McCroskey & McCroskey, 1988)
 - perceived competence in the causal form of English as a second language; Self-Perceived Communication Competence Scale (McCroskey & McCroskey, 1988) and
 - social interaction anxiety; Social Interaction Anxiety Scale (Mattick, & Clarke, 1998)

Results (Prediction):

- The researchers predict the effects of the personality factors and FNE as follows:
- Openness to new experiences will have a positive correlation with formal perceived competence (PC) and casual PC.
- Neuroticism, fear of negative evaluation, and openness will have inverse correlations with formal PC.
- Openness to Experience will be positively correlated with casual PC, while fear of negative evaluation will be inversely correlated with casual PC.
- In turn, the foursome of formal PC, causal PC, and the personality factors of Extraversion and Agreeableness will all be inversely correlated to social interaction anxiety.

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