



Linguistic sampling of social interactions: Pilot testing of a mobile approach to study people's word use.

Doerte U. Junghaenel, Ph.D., Arie Kapteyn, Ph.D., Stefan Schneider, Ph.D., Arthur A. Stone, Ph.D., Tania Gutsche, B.A., Htay-Wah Saw, Ph.D., and Jill Darling, MSHS.

Supported by grant U01 AG054580, PI: Arie Kapteyn, Ph.D.

Purpose of Linguistic Sampling in the Present Study



- We utilized linguistic sampling to study daily social experience and social integration
 - Is linguistic sampling a scalable method for population research?
 - Can studying the way *how* people talk about their social experiences enrich information obtained from standard self-report?

Why study people's word use?



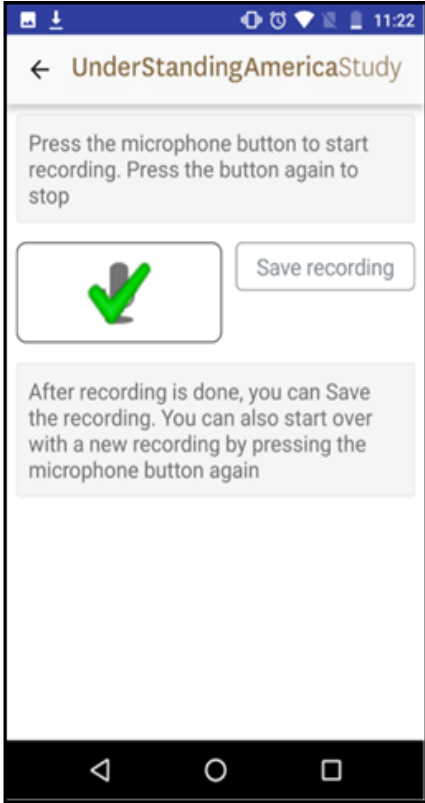
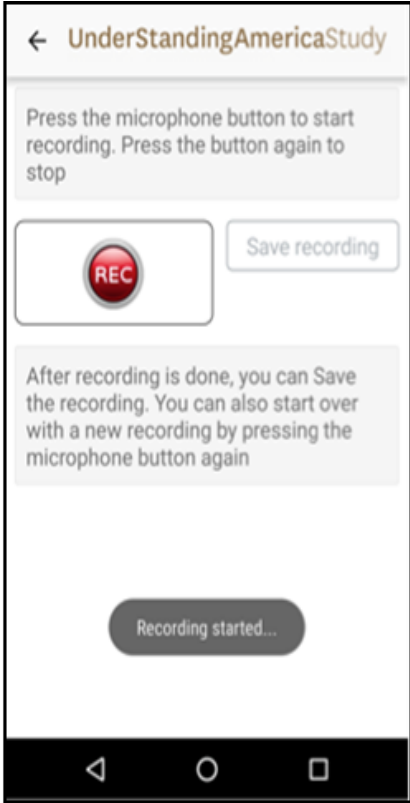
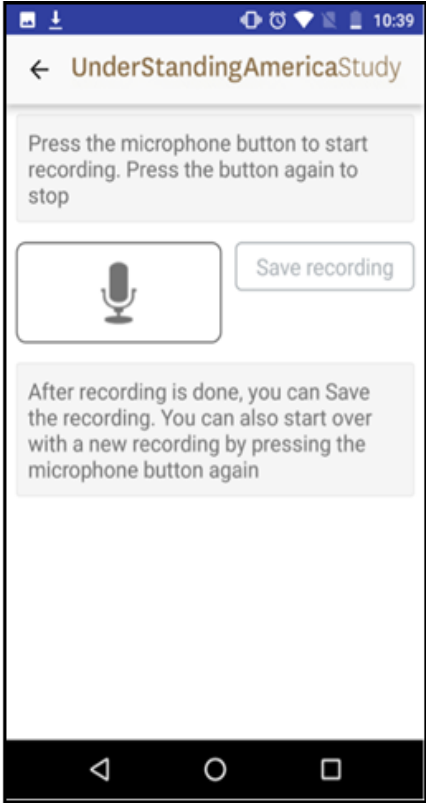
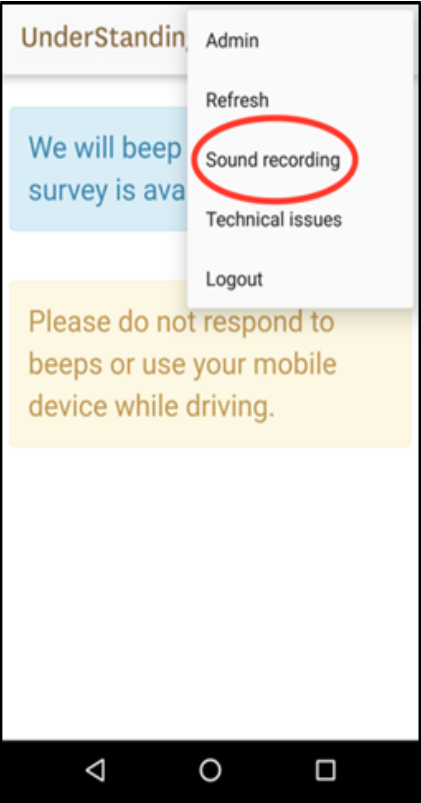
- The study of word use has a long tradition in psychology
- The way people express themselves in their natural choice of words has been shown to be related to
 - their emotional and affective state
 - their cognitive processes
 - their psychological state and their social processes
- Although word use is a form of self-report, subtleties in word use are often outside of people's immediate awareness and are less prone to self-presentational biases

Methodology for Linguistic Sampling in the Present Study



- Within context of Burst Design consisting of various methodologies (Ecological Momentary Assessment, daily diaries, wearables)
 - End-of-day recording about social interactions and corresponding mood during the day
 - Participants could talk for up to 5 minutes
- Seven days of linguistic sampling in initial pilot work, now twice a week (one random weekday, one random weekend day)

How we do it:



Linguistic Sampling Pilot Testing



- Completion of the methodology, i.e. % of participants providing all 7 linguistic samples :
 - Pilot 1 : 23%
 - Pilot 2 wave 1: 82%
 - Pilot 2 wave 2: 87%
 - Pilot 3: 84%

Linguistic Sampling: Word Categories



Linguistic Inquiry and Word Count (LIWC)

Pennebaker, J.W., Boyd, R.L., Jordan, K., & Blackburn, K. (2015).

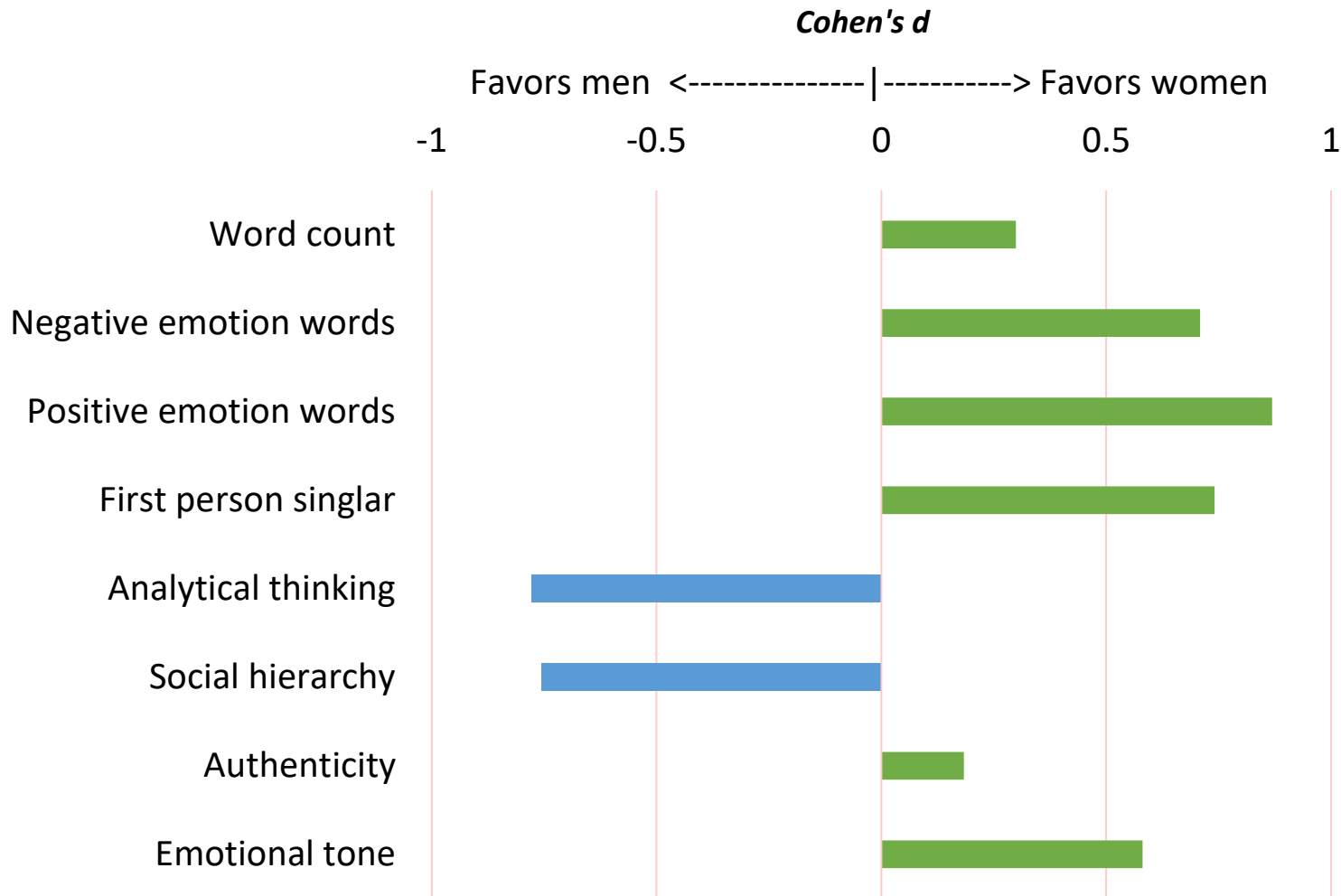
The development and psychometric properties of LIWC2015.

Austin, TX: University of Texas at Austin.

Some examples of word categories in the LIWC:

- Emotions
- Cognitive Processes
- Social Processes
- Pronouns
- Thinking Style

Gender Differences in Word Use



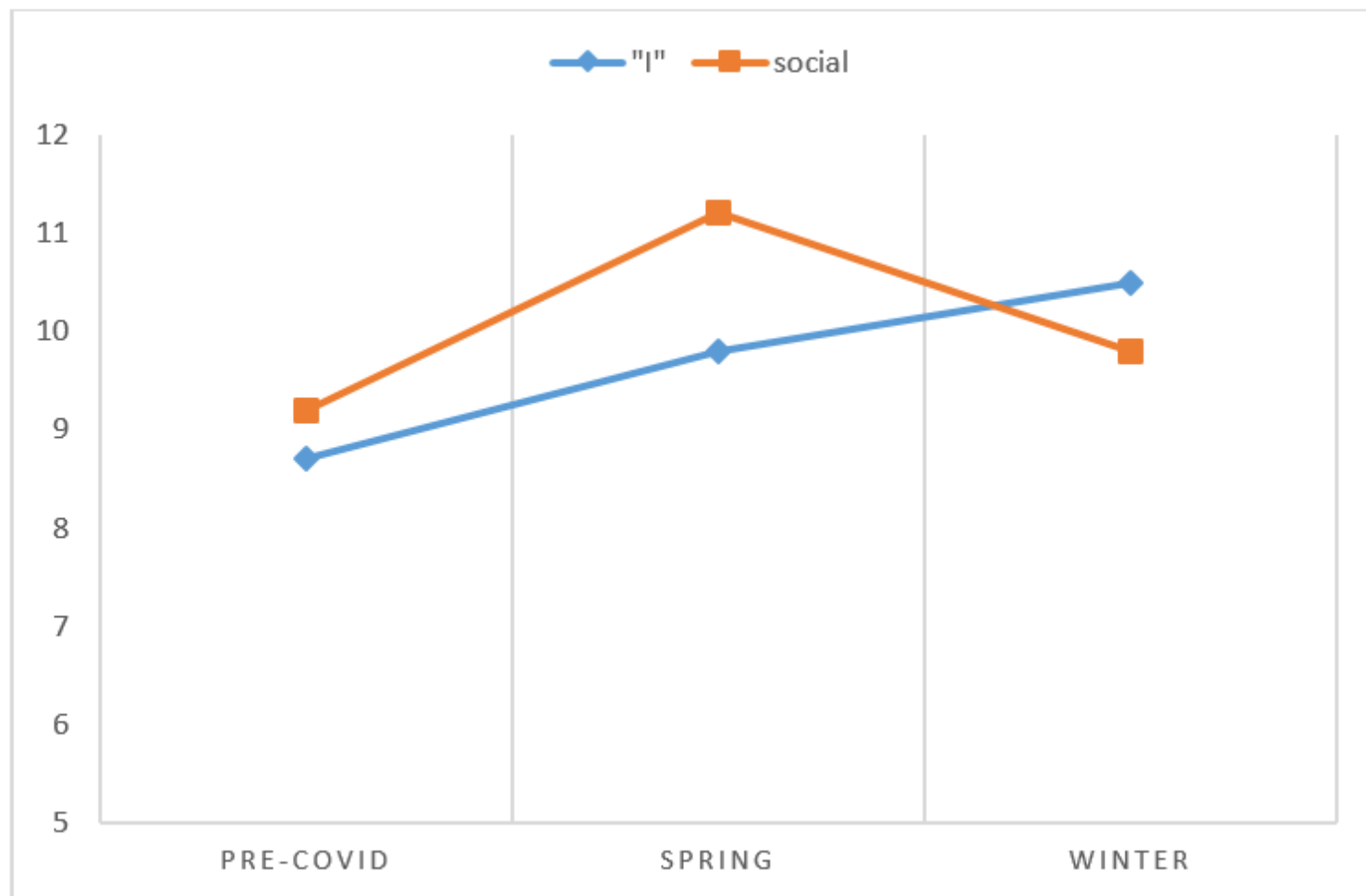


Word Use... before and during COVID

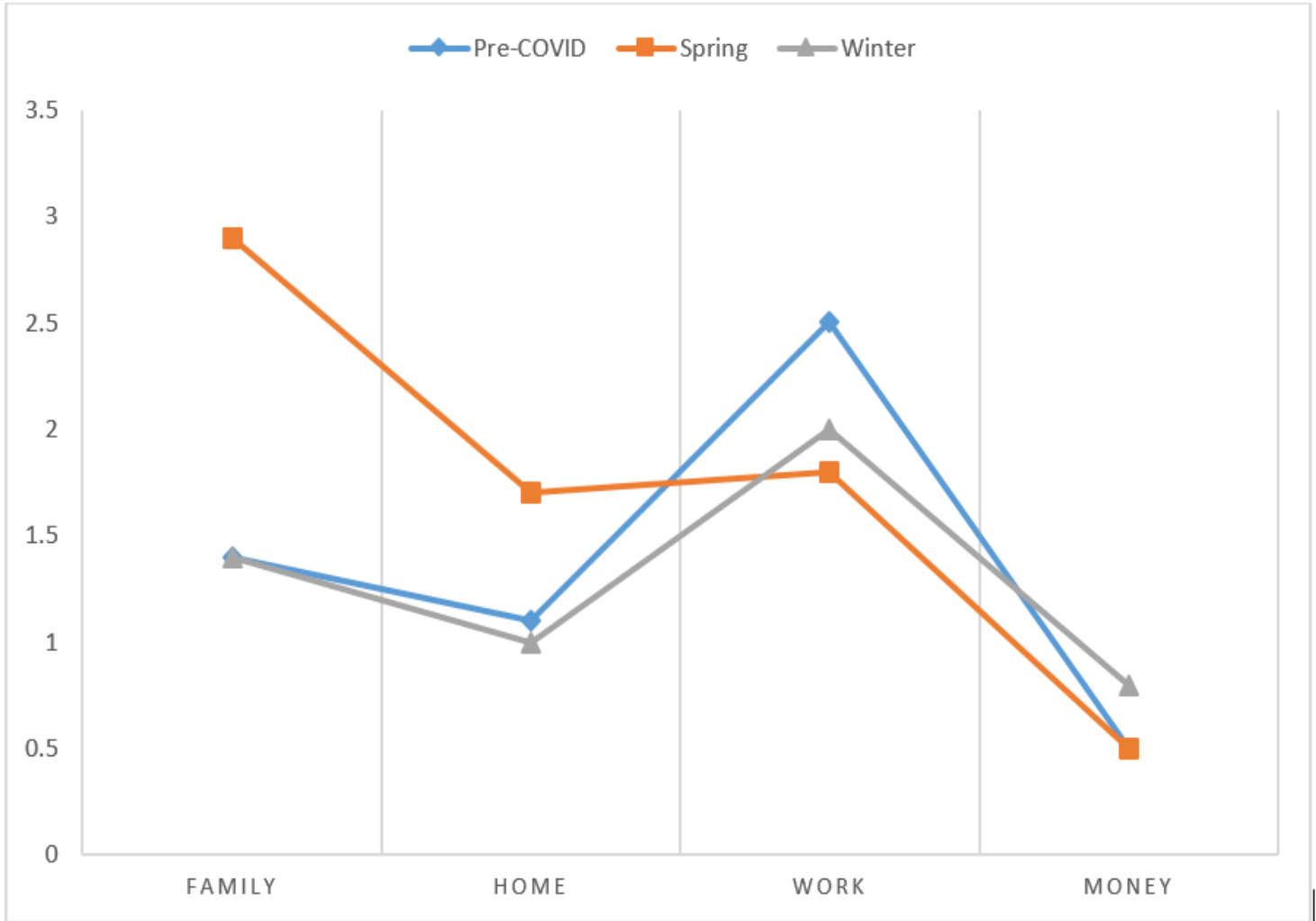
Three assessment time points:

- January/February 2020
- May 2020
- November/December 2020

Self-Focus (“I”) and Social References



Topics



Conclusions



- Successful implementation of linguistic sampling
 - good completion rates
 - good engagement in the task
 - scalable and feasible methodology
 - can complement quantitative and qualitative research
- Examples of further analyses are examining the
 - correspondence of linguistic dimensions with EMA, and
 - daily diary self-reports.



Thank you!