Project Oprah: You vs. I Resonance Study (#30146)

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1) Have any data been collected for this study already?
No, no data have been collected for this study yet.

2) What's the main question being asked or hypothesis being tested in this study?
Using passages that people have highlighted while reading books selected for Oprah's Book Club on the Amazon Kindle Application, we will test the prediction that 1-sentence highlighted passages that contained generic-you will be rated higher on resonance than the same passages which we have altered to include first-person pronouns in place of generic-you.

3) Describe the key dependent variable(s) specifying how they will be measured.
For each passage, participants will respond to the following question: How much does this passage resonate with you? (1-not at all, 2- a little, 3- a moderate amount, 4- a lot, 5- a great deal).

4) How many and which conditions will participants be assigned to?
We will use a within-subjects, repeated measures design. Participants will be exposed to nine passages that contain generic-you and nine passages that contain first-person pronouns (e.g., I, me, my), in randomized order.

As a between-subjects factor, we will vary which batch of passages participants receive. Fifty-four total passages were divided into 3 batches. The batches were constructed by taking into account resonance ratings from a prior study (As Predicted #29164) in which participants rated the original, generic-you version of the passages. Thus, each batch in the current study contains an equal distribution of passages that vary on resonance. Within each batch, we will counterbalance across participants whether they receive a given passage with generic-you or first-person pronouns (i.e., each block will have two different sets). This counterbalancing also considers the resonance ratings from the prior study.

5) Specify exactly which analyses you will conduct to examine the main question/hypothesis.
Because our design involves passages nested within books and contains multiple observations per participant, we will use multi-level modeling.

We will perform two preliminary analyses:

-We will examine whether set (i.e., whether participants saw a given passage described with generic-you vs. first-person pronouns, described above) is related to resonance ratings by entering it as a fixed effect and examining the main effect and the interaction between this variable and Condition (Generic-you vs. First-person). If neither effect is significant, we will not consider this term further. If it is, we will control for it in subsequent analyses.

-We made minor wording changes (described in more detail below) to 28% of the passages to ensure that the first-person passages were sensible and to make the manipulation maximally clean. We will test whether the wording-change variable (i.e., whether passages were altered vs. not) is related to resonance ratings by examining the main effect of this variable as well as the interaction between this variable and Condition. If neither effect is significant, we will not consider this term further. If it is, we will control for it in subsequent analyses.

Primary Analyses:

For our main model, Condition (Generic you passages vs. First-person passages) will be entered as a fixed effect. Word count will also be entered as a fixed effect to control for the potentially confounding role of sentence length. We will also examine the interaction between Condition and Word Count.

Book, Batch, and Passage number will be entered as random effects with random intercepts. Passages will be nested within Batches. Participant will also be entered as a random effect; if including a random slope for the effect of condition at the participant level leads to improved model fit, we will do so. Otherwise, participant will be entered as a random effect with a random intercept.

6) Describe exactly how outliers will be defined and handled, and your precise rule(s) for excluding observations.
The study will only be available to participants who did not participate in the prior study (As Predicted #29164).
Non-native English speakers will be screened out prior to beginning the study.
We will exclude participants that we deem to be "bots" or workers working on a Server Farm through identifying duplicate IP addresses or nonsensical open-ended responses, prior to performing any descriptive or inferential analyses.

7) How many observations will be collected or what will determine sample size? No need to justify decision, but be precise about exactly how the number will be determined.

Our prior study (As Predicted # 29164) collected data from 216 participants; we expect the size of this effect (if obtained) to be somewhat smaller than the previous study so will increase the N to 300 participants. If more participants complete the survey, we will analyze their data, as well.

8) Anything else you would like to pre-register? (e.g., secondary analyses, variables collected for exploratory purposes, unusual analyses planned?)

This is a follow-up study to two other pre-registered studies: Project Oprah: Examining crowdsourced linguistic indicators of generality (As Predicted # 24512) and Project Oprah: Resonance Validation Study (As Predicted # 29164).

We would also like to describe the types of alterations that were made to 15 (28%) of the passages. There were 4 types of alterations (note that two passages were altered on two dimensions):

1.The original passage contained third-person pronouns or proper names and generic-you, where the generic-you reflected the third-person perspective. For example: "She believed that all you wanted, you would eventually receive, and that fate was a force which worked with, not against you." In these cases (n= 7), we replaced third-person pronouns or names (in addition to generic-you) with first-person pronouns, so that the first-person version referred to only one person's perspective. For example, the above passage became: "I believed that all I wanted, I would eventually receive, and that fate was a force which worked with, not against me."

2. The original passage contained historic information, context, or references that would not make sense if applied to a first-person perspective. For example, "In my country, there is an old belief that if a bird flies into your home it is an angel who has come to guide you and you must look at its presence as a blessing from God." In these cases (n = 2), we removed this information (e.g., "In my country, there is an old belief that") from both the generic-you and first-person passages.

3. The original passage contained a command or wording that did not make sense in the first-person. In these cases (n = 5), we added a conditional (e.g., "If"), added a pronoun to clarify perspective, and/or removed the command from both the generic-you and first-person passages to make the first-person passage sensible. For example, "If you want to see a man afraid just put him in a room with a sick woman who was once strong" was altered to "If you want to see a man afraid you just put him in a room with a sick woman who was once strong" for the generic-you condition and to "If I want to see a man afraid I just put him in a room with a sick woman who was once strong."

4. The original passage contained one of our other generic indicators (e.g., we, one, people/a person) identified in As Predicted # 24512. In these cases (n=3), we replaced those other indicators with first-person pronouns (in the first-person pronoun condition only). For example, "He'd lost track of what he wanted, and since who a person was was what a person wanted, you could say that he'd lost track of himself" became "I'd lost track of what I wanted, and since who I was was what I wanted, I could say that I lost track of myself" for the first-person condition.