

Emotional lexicon organization in memory

Nicolas Leveau

CHArt - LUTIN - UMS CNRS 2809

Sandra Jhean-Larose

Université d'Orléans CHArt - LUTIN - UMS CNRS 2809

Guy Denhière

CHArt - LUTIN - UMS CNRS 2809

Abstract: In this article, we study the organization of emotions in memory supported by strategic processes. Three hypotheses are tested. First, if emotions are structured in a n-dimension space, to which emotional characteristics do these dimensions return. Second, is it possible to give an account of basic emotions through their organization in memory. Third, can semantic relations give an account of emotional relations. Two word sorting experiments are performed. In the first experiment, 128 pleasant and unpleasant words are divided into 8 lists. In the second experiment, one positive and one negative 128 words list are each divided into 8 groups of 16 words. The results support the hypothesis of an organization around a core affect (Russell, 2003), reinforce the existence of discrete emotions (Johnson-Laird & Oatley, 1989), and confirm the predictive function of semantic relations accounted by the Latent Semantic Analysis (Landauer & Dumais, 1997) on the organization of emotions.