A Logical Model for Narcissistic Personality Disorder

Mohamad Ab Saleh, LaRIFA-EDST, Lebanese University, Hadath, Lebanon
Ali Awada, LaRIFA-EDST, Lebanese University, Hadath, Lebanon

ABSTRACT

In this paper, the authors propose logic for the specification of some types of feelings, emotions and behaviours related to Narcissistic Personality Disorder disease. The targeted feelings here are Grandiosity, Truly/Wrongly Better Feeling, and Wrongly Right/Wrong Feeling, while the emotions are Envy and Admiration, and finally Exploitativeness is the unique behaviour studied. This research is multidisciplinary since it invokes both psychology and logic. Therefore, the authors had to draw the sources of this study in psychology to build a logical model that they used as a framework to represent some characteristics of the narcissistic personality. The logical model built allows expressing and recognizing the targeted feelings, emotions, and behaviours. They coupled it with an inference engine in order to use it as an aid in diagnosing whether a person is suffering from NPD, based on emotional, behavioural, and feeling information.

KEYWORDS

Emotion-Feeling-Behaviour Expression and Recognition, Logical Model, Narcissism Diagnosis Support System, Narcissistic Personality Disorder

INTRODUCTION

Personality refers to individual differences in a collection of characteristic patterns such as thinking, feeling and behaving, or characteristics that humans develop as they grow up (Stoddart, 2007). Individuals suffering from a Personality Disorder (PD) tend to be inflexible, rigid and unable to respond to changes and demands of life. Although they believe that their behaviour is “normal” or “right”, people with personality disorders tend to have a narrow view of the world, great difficulty dealing with other people, and limitations in relationships, social activities, work, etc. (Mental Health America, 2015).

The American Psychiatric Association in its medical psychological guide (DSM-IV) has identified a dozen of PD, among which is the Narcissistic Personality Disorder (NPD). People have an inflated sense of their own importance, a deep need for admiration and a lack of empathy for others in this mental disorder. Nevertheless, behind this mask of ultra-confidence lies a fragile self-esteem that is vulnerable to the slightest criticism. DSM-IV specifies the personal characteristics of NPD as mentioned below (Morrison, 2014):

1. Has a grandiose sense of self-importance;
2. Is preoccupied with fantasies of unlimited success, power, brilliance, beauty, or ideal love;
3. Believes that he or she is special and unique and can only be understood by, or should associate with, other special or high-status people (or institutions);
4. Requires excessive admiration;
5. Has a sense of entitlement;

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6. Is interpersonally exploitative;
7. Lacks empathy: is unwilling to recognize or identify with the feelings and needs of others;
8. Is often envious of others or believes that others are envious of him or her;
9. Shows arrogant, haughty behaviours or attitudes. Moreover, in her study on prisoners, (Fawzi, 2015) adds the following feature to NPD:
10. Believes, wrongly, he is right and others are wrong.

Consequently, NPD causes problems in many areas of life, such as relationships, work, school or financial affairs. A person suffering from NPD may be generally unhappy and disappointed when he is not given the special favours or admiration he believes he deserves. Others may not enjoy being around him, and he may find his relationships unfulfilling.

Many studies indicate that the epidemiological estimates for the NPD in population are ranging from 0% to 1%, but without being convinced of the veracity of these statistics (Vaknin, 2001) (Spence, 2008). Specialists believe that the prevalence of the disease in the community is higher than 1% and this conviction comes from the direct contact with pathological cases in private clinics. The main reason for this low rate is the presence of the disease in undiagnosed persons who believe they feel good and, therefore, do not seek medical advice (Campbell, Foster, Sedikides, & Spencer, 2007). Another study refers that the prevalence of NPD is ranging from 0% to 6% in general population, from 1.3% to 17% in clinical population, and from 8.5% to 20% in outpatient private practice (Ronningstam & Weinberg, 2013).

The field of NPD disease is covered in the literature of psychology. (Eksi, 2012) tackles the relation of the NPD with internet addiction and bullying for high school students. (Gungor, Eksi, & Aricak, 2012) use structural equation modelling in order to predict NPD characteristics of young adults depending on their value preferences. (King, 2012) investigates the relation between such disease and the romantic relationships during problem solving discussions. (Grant, et al., 2008) publish an article related to prevalence, correlates, disability, and comorbidity of NPD in the influence of alcohol.

On the other side, several researchers addressed the relation between NPD and emotions and behaviours. (Tracy & Robins, 2004) present an appraisal-based model of self-conscious emotions such as shame, pride, etc., and apply it to narcissistic self-esteem regulation. The elaborated model describes the cognitive processes that generate momentary emotions and provides a framework for conceptualizing how narcissism influences several aspects of the self-conscious emotion process. (Miller, et al., 2011) conduct a comparative study between grandiose and vulnerable narcissism. They conclude that, excepting of a shared tendency toward entitled and aggressive interpersonal behaviour and schemas, the two forms of narcissism share almost everything about the basic personality traits, interpersonal behaviour and psychopathology. (Krizan & Johar, 2012) consider envy as a discriminating factor between grandiose and vulnerable narcissism since they find that vulnerable narcissism is strongly related to dispositional envy while grandiose narcissism is slightly negatively related to it.

Furthermore, emotion recognition has been widely discussed in the literature. Many researchers tackled this issue in different ways and different fields. (Gunes & Pantic, 2010) conduct a survey that explores the state-of-the-art in continuous and dimensional affect recognition. They focus on the gap between different communities concerning the used databases and the annotation of data. They recommend the adoption of a multi-purpose scheme to accommodate different researches in order to realize automatic, multimodal, dimensional and continuous recognition of human affect. (Castellano, Kessous, & Caridakis, 2008) present a multimodal approach for emotion recognition that integrates information from facial expressions, body movement and gestures, and speech. They fuse together these different synchronised modalities at the feature level and at the decision level, and conclude that the feature-level fusion provides better results than the decision-level one. (Petrantonakis & Hadjileontiadis, 2010) propose a tool for emotion recognition based on EEG feature extraction technique using Higher Order Crossings. The tool allows differentiating among six basic emotions,
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