



A Lexical Study of the Personality Traits of the Yi People in a Community Context

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Abstract. Language is a powerful force in shaping personality and a key pathway to understanding it. Recognizing the personality traits of various ethnic groups through language can foster more harmonious, deeper interaction, communication, and integration. This study uses the “Comprehensive Dictionary of the Yi Language” as its lexical corpus for the Yi people. By strictly adhering to standardized procedures for selecting personality adjectives, it explores the Yi people's personality traits through language, thereby promoting interaction, exchange, and integration between the Yi and other ethnic groups. First, 2,900 personality terms were selected from the Yi Dictionary and classified individually. Subsequent analysis revealed that terms describing stable personality traits numbered 27, accounting for only 0.93% of the total personality terms, while evaluative terms totaled 634, representing 21.86% of the total; terms describing facial expressions and emotional states totaled 295, accounting for 10.17% of the total; terms describing human behavior, activities, and physical movements totaled 1,944, accounting for 67.03% of the total; subsequently, the “Yi Personality Terminology Content Validity Evaluation Form” was developed, and through expert review, 265 terms with high content validity were selected. Finally, using these 265 terms, the “Yi Ethnic Group Personality Trait Adjective Assessment Form” was developed. A sample of 269 Yi participants was selected to evaluate these terms for preference, meaningfulness, and familiarity, yielding the 10 adjectives with the highest and lowest scores for each criterion. The study indicates that the characteristics of Yi personality vocabulary exhibit cross-ethnic consistency with those of other ethnic groups, providing strong evidence for the “multicultural unity” pattern of the Chinese nation.

Keywords: Yi people, Comprehensive Dictionary of the Yi Language, Lexical Hypothesis, Personality Traits

1 Introduction

At the Fifth Central Conference on Ethnic Affairs, President Xi Jinping pointed out that ethnic work must correctly grasp the relationship between the commonalities and differences among ethnic groups, promote commonalities, and respect and embrace differences. Few today would dispute that individuals develop their personalities through a dynamic, continuous, and reciprocal process of transaction with their cultures. Culture, through the institutions, meanings, and practices it is made of, influences whether and how certain personality dispositions and adaptations are supported and expressed (Lu et al., 2023). [1]Language not only facilitates the expression of personality traits but also records and encodes the personality differences that exist within a given society. Generally speaking, the language spoken, written, and used in a particular sociocultural context should encompass the concepts necessary to describe any individual within that context; furthermore, the more important a particular trait is, the more prominent its representation in the corresponding language tends to be. This “lexical hypothesis” has significantly advanced the field of personality trait research (Wang Fang, 2023). [2]The lexical hypothesis, which suggests that individual differences are coded into language, is the foundation of modern personality psychology (Bouguettaya, A., & Stuart, E. M. 2025). [3]Understanding the personalities of people from different regions and ethnic groups through their native languages can facilitate a better comprehension of the commonalities and differences among ethnic groups in ethnic affairs, thereby reducing the formation and entrenchment of stereotypes. Therefore, understanding people through language has a theoretical foundation and a methodological framework, and can provide scientific guidance for strengthening the sense of a Chinese national community in the new era.

The Yi people are China's sixth-largest ethnic minority, primarily distributed across the four provinces (regions) of Yunnan, Sichuan, Guizhou, and Guangxi. The Yi language, which emerged around the 13th century, is an ethnic language of the Yi people. Its writing system is logographic, historically referred to as ‘Cuanwen,’ ‘Weishu,’ ‘Luoluowen,’ ‘Luowen,’ and other names. In 1975, Liangshan Yi Autonomous Prefecture in Sichuan Province formulated the Sichuan “Trial Plan for Standardized Yi Script” based on the Xide dialect as the standard pronunciation and the ‘Shengzha’ dialect as the foundational dialect, establishing 819 standardized characters. In 1980, the State Council approved this plan. It promoted its use in Yi-inhabited areas, effectively fostering ethnic unity and progress as well as the significant development of economic and cultural undertakings in the region. However, as the theory of fostering a strong sense of the Chinese national community in the new era has deepened, academic circles have begun to focus more on the psychological mechanisms of identity underlying language in recent years. As recent studies have pointed out, the Yi people have not only retained their unique cultural-psychological structure during the process of modernization but have also demonstrated remarkable psychological adaptability and a trend toward cultural integration in cross-ethnic interactions (Wu, C., & Yu, Q. M. 2025). Therefore, conducting lexical research on the personality traits of the Yi people is not only a means of preserving traditional culture but also a scientific approach to understanding this process of psychological adaptation and promoting deep-level interaction, exchange, and

integration among all ethnic groups.^[4] The Yi language, which has been passed down and remains in use to this day, provides an important linguistic foundation for exploring the personality traits of the Yi people. With the acceleration of urbanization and population mobility, the Yi people have had more frequent interpersonal contact with other ethnic groups. While these interactions enhance understanding of Yi history and culture among all ethnic groups and promote inter-ethnic communication, exchange, and integration, they also inevitably increase the risk of inter-group friction. Therefore, conducting lexical research on the personality traits of the Yi people helps the Yi community better understand themselves and enables all ethnic groups to recognize our shared psychological foundations. This, in turn, fosters a sense of commonality, respect, and tolerance for differences, thereby strengthening the consciousness of the Chinese national community from the “heart.”

2 Literature Review and Theoretical Perspectives

2.1 Lexicological Approaches and Findings in Personality Trait Research

Personality traits are relatively stable “patterns of thoughts, feelings, and behaviors (Stanek, K. C., & Ones, D., 2023).^[5] (Bleidorn et al., 2022) updated and extended previous research syntheses on personality trait development by synthesizing novel longitudinal data on rank-order stability (total $k = 189$, total $N = 178,503$) and mean-level change (total $k = 276$, $N = 242,542$) from studies published after January 1, 2005. Consistent with earlier meta-analytic findings, the rank-order stability of personality traits increased significantly throughout early life before reaching a plateau in young adulthood.^[6] Across a range of situations capable of reflecting the target trait, the three traits selected in the empirical studies were able to activate the same consistent expression (intent) (Robert P. Tett, Hal A. Guterman, 2000).^[7]

Research on personality traits typically employs two strategies: the general-pattern and specific-pattern approaches. The general-pattern approach is commonly used to study traits shared by members of a particular group (common traits); the specific-pattern approach, on the other hand, is used to study traits possessed by specific individuals (individual traits). The former focuses on revealing the commonalities in personality traits across different groups, which can easily overlook differences within groups and is not conducive to harmonious coexistence between sub-groups; the latter tends to explore the uniqueness of personality traits within a specific group or sub-group, which can easily highlight distinctive characteristics and is not conducive to the formation of a shared identity with the larger group among sub-groups. Vy Phan, et al., 2025 present a categorization of research approaches based on (a) the focal entity (person(s) vs. population(s)) and (b) the type of generalization (no vs. entity-specific vs. cross-entity) resulting in a 2×3 matrix of research approaches. Finally, we propose a framework of 25 polytomous criteria to extend upon these three distinctions. This framework can be mapped onto the generic empirical research process and may help researchers to make decisions in the research process more explicit.^[8] Consequently, research into the lexicon of personality traits among the Chinese people in the new era should integrate the use of both approaches: whilst employing the general law method to reveal the shared

traits of various ethnic groups, it should also adopt the specific law method to reveal both the common traits and distinctive characteristics of each ethnic group. In this way, commonality can be safeguarded, and differences respected more scientifically and rationally, thereby clarifying, from a linguistic and lexical perspective, the foundation of the personality traits underpinning the sense of community of the Chinese nation.

Lexicographical hypotheses and factor analysis play a significant role in the study of personality traits shared by members of specific groups. Lexicographical hypotheses provide direction for identifying personality traits and establish criteria for recognising significant traits, whilst factor analysis serves as a key statistical method for organising personality assessment data, constructing theories of personality structure, and examining the validity of personality assessment instruments. G.W. Allport(1936), a pioneer of the psycholexical approach, was the first to propose classification criteria for personality terms by consulting dictionaries, identifying 17,953 trait terms.^[9] Subsequently, R.B. Cattell(1970) was the first to employ factor analysis techniques to identify 16 root traits.^[10] ; as this was not conducive to an intuitive and concise understanding of personality traits, Yik, M et al. (2025)Used data from three Chinese samples (Ns = 611, 403, 299) collected using both monolingual and bilingual designs, we evaluated the psychometric properties and factor structure of the NEO Five-Factor Inventory 3 (FFI-3), the short form of the NEO Personality Inventory 3 (PI-3), for use in Chinese communities. ^[11] Subsequently, the“Big Five”personality theory(Robert R,McCrae et al.,1998) ^[12]and the "Big Seven" theory of Chinese personality, along with recent research on the psychological structure and mechanism of shared Chinese cultural identity among university students (Zhu D and Lin X ,2022)^[13] and other personality theories, personality trait adjectives(Huang Xiting, Zhang Shulin,1992)^[14], and various assessment tools have continued to emerge, paving a scientific path for understanding the universal or specific personality characteristics possessed by different ethnic groups. Using vocabulary to understand the personalities of specific groups is a viable methodological approach, capable of providing empirical, theoretical, and lexical material for strengthening the sense of a Chinese national community.

2.2 A Review of Research on Chinese Personality Based on Vocabulary

Most previous studies have employed foreign personality scales to describe the personality traits of various ethnic groups. Such studies have adapted foreign personality assessment tools to ensure that the wording aligns with the linguistic habits of the test participants and that the content reflects their everyday lives(Chen Zhonggeng,1983). ^[15] Subsequently, these adapted scales were administered to members of specific ethnic groups to describe the similarities and differences in the personality structures and overall characteristics of those groups.

Xu Sian(2006) utilised the Chinese Personality Adjective Rating Scale to conduct testing, validating the 'Big Seven' personality structure model for the Han, Zhuang, Mongolian, and Naxi ethnic groups. ^[16] The factor analysis results of this study revealed that, whilst there are many commonalities in personality structure across different ethnic groups, inconsistencies were also identified. For example, the Zhuang personality structure comprises four factors: maturity and competence, kindness and shrewdness,

extroversion and activity, and a negative factor; the Mongolian personality structure comprises four factors: tolerance and integrity, competence and self-confidence, extroversion and activity, and a negative factor; the Naxi personality structure comprises three factors: a positive factor, a negative factor, and extroversion and activity. Zhang Jijia and Wang Juan(2016) conducted an exploratory analysis of the personality assessment results of Mosuo secondary school students, identifying four factors among the Mosuo people in Yunnan: positive factor, negative personality traits, negative temperamental traits and introversion; whilst among the Mosuo people in Sichuan, they identified four factors: positive and generous, alert and self-controlled, introverted and self-centred, and courageous and resilient. Further comparison revealed that the personality structures of the Han Chinese and ethnic minority groups share commonalities as well as differences in both the number and connotations of the factors.^[17] The aforementioned research indicates that the personality structures of various ethnic groups share commonalities, reflecting that the sense of a Chinese national community possesses a shared psychological foundation. While Chinese people maintain their own ethnic identities, they also belong to the Chinese nation as descendants of the Yan and Huang(Sun., et al. 2024).^[18]Based on this, the present study focuses on the personality traits of the Yi people. Grounded in the lexical hypothesis of personality and classical measurement theory, it conducts a standardised screening and classification of terms describing interpersonal differences found in the “Comprehensive Dictionary of the Yi Language”. Whilst ensuring the reliability and content validity of the screening results, this study examines the familiarity, semantic clarity, contemporary relevance, and evaluative nature of trait-related terms among Yi respondents. It selects terms that are familiar, unambiguous, contemporary, and neutral to compile the “Dictionary of Yi Personality Trait Adjectives”, which can be used to measure personality traits. This will provide empirical support and lexical material for the exploration of Yi cultural psychology and the fundamental personality of the Chinese people.

3 Screening and Classification of Vocabulary Related to the Personality Traits of the Yi People

3.1 Selection Criteria for Vocabulary Describing the Personality Traits of the Yi People

The personality-related terms selected for this study are drawn from “The Comprehensive Dictionary of the Yi Language” (1997 edition), published by Sichuan Nationalities Publishing House. The compilation of this dictionary spanned twelve years and brought together the collective wisdom of more than forty experts in Yi language and literature, both established and emerging. It is the first large-scale comprehensive reference work in Yi history to be compiled using standardized Yi language and formally published, and was previously designated as a national key project and a key book publishing project. The book covers various fields, including Yi history, politics, economy, culture, religion, astronomy, geography, medicine, language and literature, and philosophy. The book contains 45,000 entries, arranged in alphabetical order by the Yi script.

The entire book provides definitions in the Yi language and uses the Yi phonetic transcription system for pronunciation. It is the largest dictionary in Sichuan, containing the most entries and the most comprehensive definitions in standardized Yi script. The book features a 686-page subject index, 1,616 pages of main text, and a 56-page appendix. The appendix includes over 10 sections, including the Chinese Pinyin system, guidelines for punctuation, the distribution and population of various ethnic groups, a table of Chinese dynastic eras, and the periodic table of elements. The entire book comprises 3.28 million characters.

Drawing on the research by Volungevičienė A and Mlačić (2022) on the Lithuanian comprehensive lexical taxonomy of social effects and its implications for cross-cultural personality terminology classification,^[19] we selected all terms from the “Comprehensive Dictionary of Yi Language” that describe differences in individual behavior and experience, excluding complete sentences, terms describing common human behavior, terms describing only differences in individual physical morphology, and terms describing only group characteristics or behavior. After the screening process, the personality terms were further classified into four categories: Trait-related: Terms describing stable personality characteristics; these describe consistent and stable patterns of behavior in individuals and are primarily neutral, non-evaluative words; Evaluative: Terms carrying distinct social evaluative connotations; while they are not stable personality terms themselves, they may serve as evaluations of such terms; Facial Expression and Emotion: Terms describing facial expressions and emotional states; while they do not represent enduring or stable traits, they can distinguish differences in people's behavior; Concrete Behavior: Terms describing human behavior, activities, and physical movements; they all pertain to specific behaviors. Four researchers living within the Yi cultural context and proficient in the Yi language jointly conducted the word selection process; the screening and classification work was divided into two phases: word selection training and formal word selection.

3.2 Methods for Selecting Vocabulary Related to the Personality Traits of the Yi People

During the word selection training, the organizer randomly selects pages from the dictionary and records them, choosing approximately 150 entries each time. Afterward, the selected pages are scanned and printed, and the word selectors mark the term categories on the printed pages: 1—Trait, 2—Evaluation, 3—Emotion, 4—Specific Activity, 0—Non-Personality. The classification results are entered into SPSS, with the evaluator ID as the variable and the entries from this classification session as the cases. After classification is complete, the word selection team holds a group discussion to confirm the correct classification of the 150 entries.

A contingency table analysis is conducted to calculate the Kappa coefficient for the classification results of the two word selectors, thereby assessing the consistency of their classifications. When the classification consistency among all evaluators is no less than 0.61, the formal word selection process may proceed. The Kappa coefficient serves as the metric for assessing consistency: 0.0 – 0.20 indicates very low consistency; 0.21 – 0.40 indicates fair consistency; 0.41 – 0.60 indicates moderate consistency;

0.61 – 0.80 indicates high consistency; and 0.81 – 1 indicates nearly perfect consistency.

The procedure for formal lexical selection is similar to that of preliminary selection. During the formal selection process, three members independently classified and annotated the personality terms on page 538 of the “Comprehensive Dictionary of the Yi Language”. In contrast, another member was responsible for double-checking and entering the classifications of these terms, and for translating the terms in the first category (trait-related) and second category (evaluative) with reference to the “Yi-Chinese Dictionary”. The results of the formal lexical selection were organized and formatted to compile a comprehensive and systematic “Classification Table of Yi Personality Terminology”.

3.3 Results and Analysis of Vocabulary Related to the Personality Traits of the Yi People

A total of four training sessions were conducted prior to the formal word selection. Table 1 shows the classification consistency among members during the training sessions and the formal word selection. Starting with the second training session, the average classification consistency among members remained stable at around 0.70; during the second and fourth training sessions, it exceeded 0.75. One evaluation was conducted during the formal selection phase, with classification consistency among members exceeding 0.60 and averaging 0.72. Furthermore, the classification results corrected by the reviewer showed extremely high consistency with the final classifications reached through member discussions, with a Kappa value of 0.825. These results indicate that the selectors demonstrated high classification consistency during the formal selection process, and the review process further ensured the reliability of the formal selection.

Table 1. Classification Agreement (Kappa Coefficient).

Selector	First Round	Second Round	Third Round	Fourth Round	Final Selection
Selector 1–Selector 2	0.589***	0.798***	0.551***	0.750***	0.671***
Selector 3–Selector 2	0.384***	0.781***	0.861***	0.901***	0.856***
Selector 1 - Selector 3	0.517***	0.750***	0.622***	0.856***	0.630***
Answer Verification	—	—	—	—	0.825***

Note: * indicates $p<0.05$, ** indicates $p<0.01$, *** indicates $p<0.001$

As shown in Figure 1, a total of 2,900 personality terms were ultimately selected from the “Comprehensive Dictionary of the Yi Language” and classified, resulting in the compilation of the “Classification Table of Yi Personality Terms”. In this table, there are 27 terms describing stable personality traits, accounting for only 0.93% of the total personality terms; There are a total of 634 evaluative terms, accounting for 21.86% of the total personality terms; terms describing facial expressions and emotional states total 295, accounting for 10.17% of the total personality terms; and terms describing

human behavior, activities, and physical movements total 1,944, accounting for 67.03% of the total personality terms.

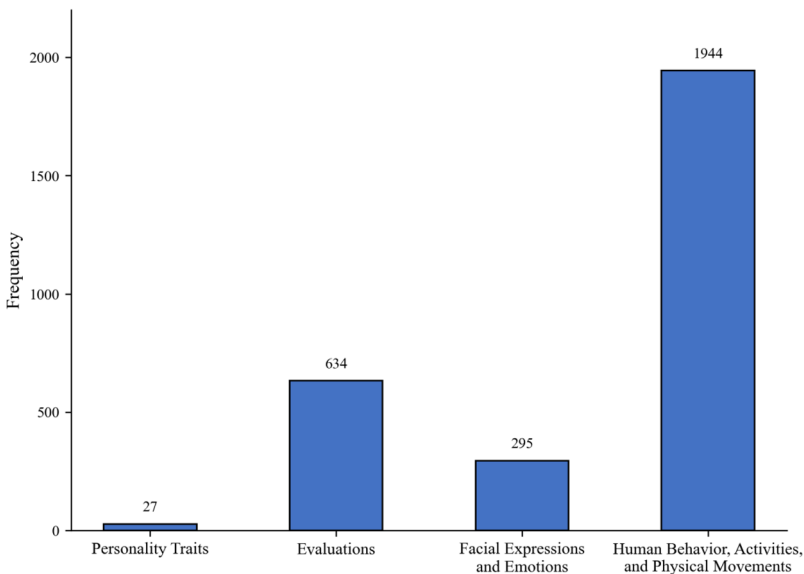


Fig. 1. Results of Personality Terminology Classification.

4 Validity Assessment of the Yi Ethnic Group's Personality Trait Vocabulary

4.1 Methods for Validity Assessment of the Yi Ethnic Group's Personality Trait Vocabulary

Trait-related and evaluative terms were extracted from the "Classification Table of Yi Personality Terminology", and the "Content Validity Evaluation Form for Personality Trait Terminology" was developed. Two experts—one from an ethnic minority college and the other from an ethnic minority publishing house—evaluated these terms. The instructions section of the "Personality Trait Terminology Content Validity Evaluation Form" introduced the experts to the research objectives, operational methods, content validity, and definitions of personality trait concepts. After carefully reading and understanding the task requirements and conceptual definitions, the two experts rated, on a four-point scale, the extent to which the Yi ethnic group's personality trait terms effectively reflected the personality characteristics they were intended to describe.

The expert ratings were entered into Excel, and the ratings from both experts were analyzed. Using logical statements, the frequency of terms for which the two experts made identical ratings within the high-correlation (greater than 2 points) and low-correlation (less than 3 points) ranges was determined, and the interrater agreement (IR) level was calculated. An IR value of 0.7 or higher indicates good agreement, allowing

for further examination of the content validity of each term (Shi Jingcheng, Mo Xiankun, & Sun Zhenqiu, 2012). Terms deemed by both experts to have a high correlation (greater than 2) with the personality trait concepts were selected to compile the “Evaluation Table for the Content Validity of Yi Personality Trait Terms.”

4.2 Evaluation Results and Analysis of the Yi Personality Trait Vocabulary

In Expert 1’s evaluation, 116 terms were highly correlated with the concept of personality traits, 197 moderately correlated, 204 somewhat correlated, and 110 completely unrelated to personality traits (see Figure 2). The remaining terms were not evaluated. In Expert 2’s evaluation, 112 terms were highly relevant to the concept of personality traits; 268 terms were moderately relevant; 202 terms were somewhat relevant; and 44 terms were completely irrelevant (see Figure 2). The remaining terms were not evaluated.

Both Expert 1 and Expert 2 rated 265 terms as highly correlated (2 points) with the concept of personality traits, and both rated 199 terms as weakly correlated (<3 points). There were 46 terms that Expert 1 rated as highly correlated but Expert 2 rated as weakly correlated, and 111 terms that Expert 2 rated as highly correlated but Expert 1 rated as weakly correlated. The level of inter-rater agreement was calculated by dividing the sum of the number of terms classified consistently by the experts by the total number of personality terms, and then dividing this by the sum of the number of terms classified inconsistently by the experts. The calculated IR value was 0.742, indicating strong agreement between the two raters.

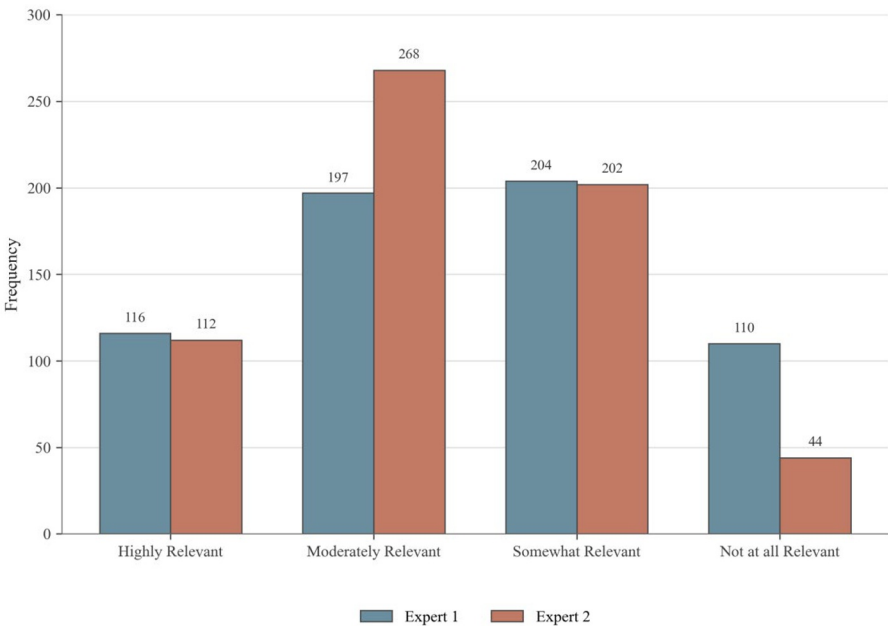


Fig. 2. Results of Expert Content Validity Assessments

5 Validity Analysis of Yi Personality Trait Terminology

5.1 Methods for Validity Analysis of Yi Personality Trait Terminology

From the “Evaluation Table of Content Validity for Yi Personality Terminology,” 265 terms with high content validity were selected—specifically, those rated by both experts as highly relevant (4 points) or somewhat relevant (3 points) to personality trait concepts. The “Yi Personality Trait Adjective Assessment Form” was developed to evaluate the likability, meaningfulness, and familiarity of these personality trait terms.

The 265 personality trait terms were compiled into a booklet on an online testing platform. The first page contained the informed consent form and a sociodemographic questionnaire, while the second page featured the valence rating questionnaire for the 265 terms. Each participant rated only one valence indicator category. A total of 269 Yi participants took part in this study, with an average age of 22.5 years; 86 were male, and 183 were female; 228 participants were from ethnic minority-concentrated areas, and 41 were from non-ethnic minority-concentrated areas. A total of 94 participants evaluated the likability of the personality trait terms, 84 evaluated their meaningfulness, and 91 evaluated their familiarity.

5.2 Results of the Valence Analysis of Yi Personality Trait Terminology

As shown in Figures 3 to 5, frequency histograms were plotted with the mean values of likability, meaningfulness, and familiarity on the x-axis, and the frequency of terms at corresponding score levels on the y-axis. Regarding the frequency distribution of trait terms based on likability scores, it exhibits a bimodal pattern, with higher frequencies at the low and high ends of the scale and lower frequencies in the middle range. Regarding the frequency distribution of trait terms based on familiarity and meaningfulness scores, it exhibits a unimodal pattern, with higher frequency in the middle range and lower frequency at the low and high ends of the scale.

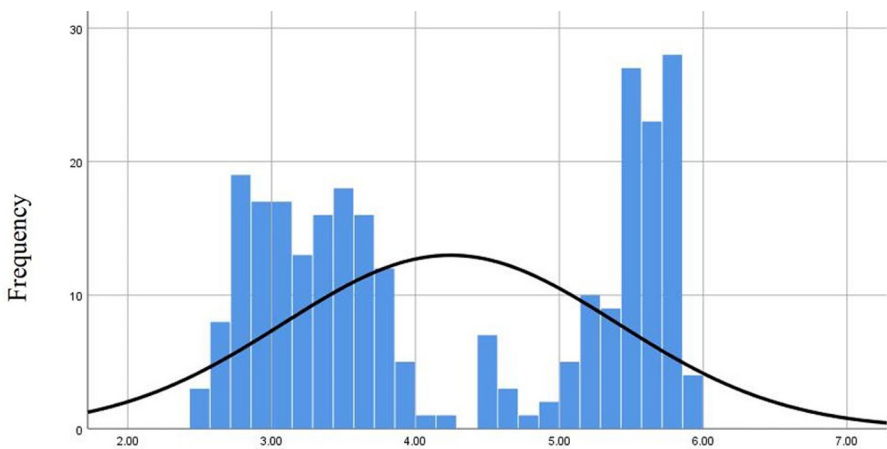


Fig. 3. Frequency Distribution Chart of Likes and Dislikes for Personality Trait Terminology.

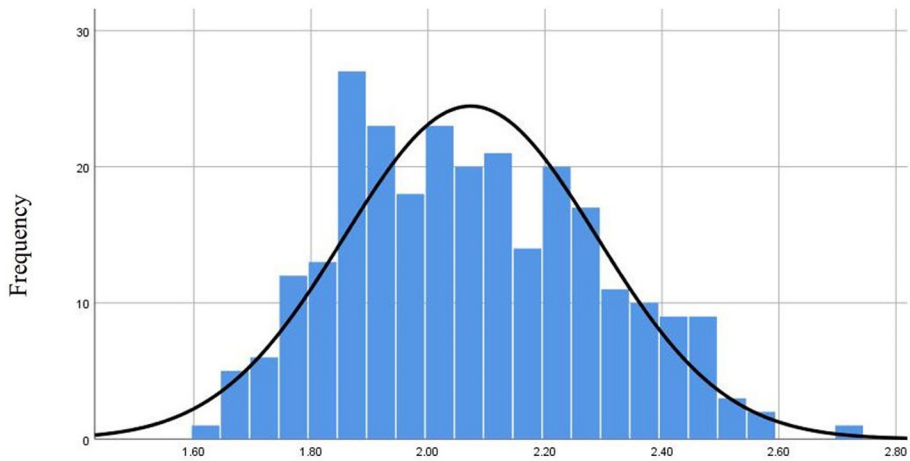


Fig. 4. Frequency Distribution Chart of Familiarity with Personality Trait Terminology.

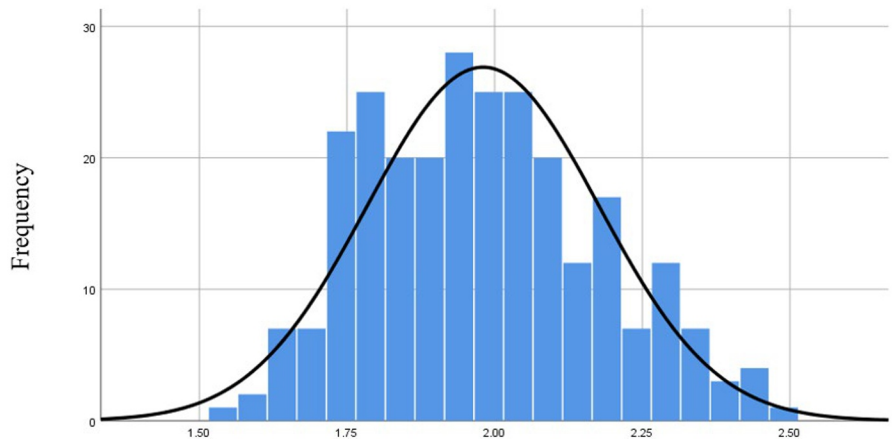


Fig. 5. Frequency Distribution Chart of the Semantic Significance of Personality Trait Terminology.

Table 2 summarizes the average scores for likability, familiarity, and meaningfulness across 265 personality trait terms. It lists the 10 adjectives with the highest and lowest scores for each dimension (see Appendix 1). Among the 265 personality trait terms, the 10 most negative ones are: 兇殘 (cruel), 惡毒 (malicious), 不誠 (dishonest), 強迫 (a compulsive liar), 劣質 (poor character), 狡詐 (cunning and crafty), 惡毒 (malicious), 惡意 (malicious intent), 陰險 (insidious and cunning), 惡毒 (malicious); The 10 most positive personality traits are: 文明 (civilized), 好客 (hospitable), 有禮 (polite), 有禮 (polite), 有禮 (polite), 仔細 (meticulous and conscientious), 勇敢 (brave), 和藹 (affable), 英雄 (heroic role model), 優雅 (elegant speech).

Table 2. The average of the 10 terms with the lowest and highest favorability scores

Personality Trait	English Translation	Average	Personality Trait	English Translation	Average
ꠊꠊꠊꠊꠊ	Cruelty	2.52	ꠊꠊꠊꠊꠊ	Civilization	5.90
ꠊꠊꠊꠊꠊ	Malicious	2.53	ꠊꠊꠊꠊꠊ	Hospitality	5.90
ꠊꠊꠊꠊꠊ	Dishonest	2.56	ꠊꠊꠊꠊꠊ	Polite Speech	5.87
ꠊꠊꠊꠊꠊ	Lies a Lot	2.64	ꠊꠊꠊꠊꠊ	Polite	5.87
ꠊꠊꠊꠊꠊ	Bad Behavior	2.65	ꠊꠊꠊꠊꠊ	Courteous	5.84
ꠊꠊꠊꠊꠊ	Cunning	2.65	ꠊꠊꠊꠊꠊ	Meticulous	5.84
ꠊꠊꠊꠊꠊ	Malicious	2.67	ꠊꠊꠊꠊꠊ	Brave	5.83
ꠊꠊꠊꠊꠊ	Cruel	2.67	ꠊꠊꠊꠊꠊ	Affable	5.83
ꠊꠊꠊꠊꠊ	Insidious and Cunning	2.70	ꠊꠊꠊꠊꠊ	Heroic Role Model	5.81
ꠊꠊꠊꠊꠊ	Malicious	2.71	ꠊꠊꠊꠊꠊ	Speaks Elegantly	5.81

As shown in Table 3 the 10 personality traits with the least clear definitions are: ꠊꠊꠊꠊꠊ (loquacious), ꠊꠊꠊꠊꠊ (frivolous), ꠊꠊꠊꠊꠊ (clumsy), ꠊꠊꠊꠊꠊ (cunning), ꠊꠊꠊꠊꠊ (procrastinating), ꠊꠊꠊꠊꠊ (malicious), ꠊꠊꠊꠊꠊ (mentally unstable), ꠊꠊꠊꠊꠊ (frivolous), ꠊꠊꠊꠊꠊ (babyish), ꠊꠊꠊꠊꠊ (sly); The 10 personality traits with the clearest definitions are: ꠊꠊꠊꠊꠊ (mature), ꠊꠊꠊꠊꠊ (shy), ꠊꠊꠊꠊꠊ (smart), ꠊꠊꠊꠊꠊ (diligent and brave), ꠊꠊꠊꠊꠊ (thrifty), ꠊꠊꠊꠊꠊ (thoughtful), ꠊꠊꠊꠊꠊ (obedient), ꠊꠊꠊꠊꠊ (caring), ꠊꠊꠊꠊꠊ (kind), ꠊꠊꠊꠊꠊ (thrifty).

Table 3. The average of the 10 terms with the lowest and highest significance scores

Personality Trait	English Translation	Average	Personality Trait	English Translation	Average
ꠊꠊꠊꠊꠊ	Oh dear	1.54	ꠊꠊꠊꠊꠊ	Mature	2.50
ꠊꠊꠊꠊꠊ	Frivolous	1.57	ꠊꠊꠊꠊꠊ	Shy	2.46
ꠊꠊꠊꠊꠊ	Clumsy	1.60	ꠊꠊꠊꠊꠊ	Intelligent	2.44
ꠊꠊꠊꠊꠊ	Cunning fellow	1.62	ꠊꠊꠊꠊꠊ	Hard-working and brave	2.43
ꠊꠊꠊꠊꠊ	Procrastinating	1.62	ꠊꠊꠊꠊꠊ	Thrifty	2.42
ꠊꠊꠊꠊꠊ	Up to no good	1.62	ꠊꠊꠊꠊꠊ	Thoughtful	2.40
ꠊꠊꠊꠊꠊ	Crazy	1.63	ꠊꠊꠊꠊꠊ	Obedient	2.39
ꠊꠊꠊꠊꠊ	Frivolous	1.63	ꠊꠊꠊꠊꠊ	Caring	2.38
ꠊꠊꠊꠊꠊ	Babyish	1.63	ꠊꠊꠊꠊꠊ	Kind	2.36
ꠊꠊꠊꠊꠊ	Sly and devious	1.65	ꠊꠊꠊꠊꠊ	Thrifty	2.36

As shown in Table 4 the 10 least familiar personality traits are: ꠊꠊꠊꠊꠊ (eccentric), ꠊꠊꠊꠊꠊ (playboy), ꠊꠊꠊꠊꠊ (chatterbox), ꠊꠊꠊꠊꠊ (shady), ꠊꠊꠊꠊꠊ (cunning), ꠊꠊꠊꠊꠊ (frivolous), ꠊꠊꠊꠊꠊ (verbose), ꠊꠊꠊꠊꠊ (loquacious), ꠊꠊꠊꠊꠊ (eccentric), ꠊꠊꠊꠊꠊ (incompetent); The 10 most familiar personality traits are: ꠊꠊꠊꠊꠊ (sensible), ꠊꠊꠊꠊꠊ (diligent and brave), ꠊꠊꠊꠊꠊ (shy), ꠊꠊꠊꠊꠊ (polite), ꠊꠊꠊꠊꠊ (civilized), ꠊꠊꠊꠊꠊ (brave), ꠊꠊꠊꠊꠊ (sensible), ꠊꠊꠊꠊꠊ (thrifty), ꠊꠊꠊꠊꠊ (easygoing), ꠊꠊꠊꠊꠊ (kind).

Table 4. The average of the 10 terms with the lowest and highest familiarity scores

Personality Trait	English Translation	Average	Personality Trait	English Translation	Average
ꠊꠞꠞꠞꠞꠞ	Eccentric	1.62	ꠊꠞꠞ	Mature	2.74
ꠞꠞꠞꠞꠞꠞ	Playboy	1.66	ꠞꠞꠞꠞꠞ	Hardworking and brave	2.58
ꠞꠞꠞ	Talkative	1.67	ꠞꠞꠞ	Shy	2.55
ꠞꠞꠞꠞꠞ	Unreliable	1.68	ꠞꠞꠞ	Polite	2.54
ꠞꠞꠞꠞꠞ	Insidious and Cunning	1.68	ꠞꠞꠞꠞꠞ	Civilized	2.53
ꠞꠞꠞꠞꠞ	Frivolous	1.69	ꠞꠞꠞ	Brave	2.51
ꠞꠞꠞꠞꠞ	Talkative	1.70	ꠞꠞꠞꠞꠞ	Mature	2.49
ꠞꠞꠞꠞꠞ	Loquacious	1.71	ꠞꠞꠞꠞꠞ	Thrifty	2.48
ꠞꠞꠞꠞꠞ	Eccentric	1.71	ꠞꠞꠞ	Easygoing	2.48
ꠞꠞꠞꠞꠞ	Inept	1.73	ꠞꠞꠞ	Kind	2.47

6 Research Conclusions and Implications

To understand the personality structure and characteristics of the Yi people from a lexical perspective, and to foster greater mutual respect and tolerance in interethnic interaction, exchange, and integration, this study conducted a systematic and comprehensive screening and classification of Yi personality terms based on the hypothesis of personality lexicology within the context of Yi language and culture. It also investigated the liking, familiarity, and meaningfulness of personality trait terms with high content validity. The aforementioned research findings contribute to a deeper exploration of the personality structure and characteristics of the Yi people, promote better interaction, exchange, and integration between the Yi and other ethnic groups, and provide reference materials and research data to foster a strong sense of the Chinese national community in ethnic regions.

Judging from the results of the screening and classification of Yi personality terms, the proportions of evaluative and emotional-expressive terms in the Yi personality lexicon are very close, reflecting that the Yi people, like the Han and other ethnic groups, place great importance on evaluative descriptions of individuals, embodying the common trait of the Chinese nation of valuing others' evaluations. In fact, research on Chinese personality vocabulary has shown that terms describing stable personality traits also contain terms with distinct evaluative connotations, such as "old-fashioned," "power-hungry," and "sincere." Furthermore, certain factors within the personality structures derived from Chinese personality adjective ratings also exhibit distinct evaluative characteristics(Cui Hong, Wang Dengfeng,2003)^[20], such as "elegant and talented—shallow and dull," "enthusiastic and generous—withdrawn and selfish," and "detached and objective—greedy and vain." This indicates that it is difficult to separate personality traits from evaluative aspects within the Chinese cultural context; that is, trait-based and evaluative terms are not entirely distinct, but rather seem to coexist at different points along a "negative - neutral - positive" continuum. This also, to some

extent, validates the view of "basic personality" in cultural anthropology, namely that Chinese ethnic groups share common personality evaluation characteristics. Therefore, prior to conducting subsequent content validity and valence assessments, the research team merged trait-based and evaluative terms, assessed the extent to which 634 terms aligned with trait-based terminology, and examined the characteristics of 265 terms with high content validity in terms of likability, familiarity, and meaningfulness.

Furthermore, this study found that the total number of personality terms in the Yi vocabulary is lower than that reported in studies of Chinese personality vocabulary. Among these, the proportion of trait-related terms in the Yi language was far lower than that in Chinese. In contrast, the proportion of specific activity-related terms in the Yi language was far higher than that of similar terms in Chinese. These results also reflect the distinctiveness of the Yi people's own personality traits, namely, a relatively greater emphasis on individual behavioral manifestations. A possible reason for the scarcity of activity-based trait terms is that, within the Chinese cultural context, it is difficult to separate personality traits from preferences completely.

Regarding the valence indicators of Yi personality trait terms, this study combined trait-based and evaluative terms and assessed them for high content validity. Regarding the distribution of personality trait terms across liking, familiarity, and meaningfulness, Yi and Chinese personality trait terms exhibited consistent trends: both showed a bimodal distribution in liking, with few neutral terms and a higher proportion of negative and positive terms. At the same time, both showed unimodal normal distributions for familiarity and meaningfulness (Huang Xiting, Zhang Shulin, 1992).^[21] Research findings on liking further indicate that it is not feasible to separate personality traits from liking, a conclusion that closely aligns with previous studies on Chinese personality vocabulary. The distribution of personality vocabulary and linguistic features across different ethnic groups reveals cross-ethnic consistency, which to some extent also reflects the common psychological characteristics of personality among China's various ethnic groups.

To promote the more effective application of research findings, the author offers the following three recommendations. First, Wundt believed that laboratory research struggles to examine the complex aspects of human psychology (Zhang Shifu, 2004).^[22] Allport's ideas about the nature of personality are correct. Personality is inherently inconsistent and contradictory; it is dependent on the situation, with situational determinants of personality traits being more significant in structured contexts, while internal, intralinguistic determinants dominate in unstructured ones. And complex whole requiring the collection of diverse data for research (Toomela, A. 2025).^[23] Sources such as everyday language, Yi-language publications, and classical texts can provide more comprehensive material for personality research. Second, this study examined the liking, familiarity, and meaningfulness of 265 Yi personality trait terms among Yi participants; the results can serve as a reference for future research. However, this survey still has certain limitations, including the sample size and the selection of participants. Therefore, before conducting follow-up studies, researchers may conduct more targeted investigations of the valence indicators of Yi personality trait terms within the target population, based on experimental needs, to ensure the appropriate use of the data. Third, in cross-cultural comparative studies, researchers may compare and translate lists of

personality trait adjectives in the Yi and Chinese languages, while controlling for variables such as character form and word count to ensure the reliability of the experimental materials. Finally, research on personality trait vocabulary is not an overnight endeavor. In both English and Chinese personality trait studies, researchers have reached convincing conclusions and obtained reliable research materials only after repeatedly screening, classifying, and organizing personality terms. In the future, we can continue to use the “Classification Table of Yi Personality Terms” and the “List of Yi Personality Trait Adjectives” to conduct more in-depth lexical research on the screening and classification of Yi personality terms. This will allow for the supplementation, revision, and refinement of the “List of Yi Personality Trait Adjectives”, thereby enhancing its reliability and scientific validity as research material for disciplines such as linguistics, literature, and psychology.

Overall, this study explores the lexical classification and characteristics of Yi personality and conducts a quantitative analysis of these terms from a semantic perspective, revealing numerous commonalities with lexical analyses of personality in other ethnic groups or languages. The cross-ethnic consistency of the findings in personality lexicology also corroborates the “unity in diversity” characteristic of the Chinese nation. This further demonstrates that fostering a strong sense of the Chinese national community requires not only a scientific understanding of the commonalities among all ethnic groups but also respect for and understanding of their respective differences. As President Xi Jinping has stated: “Ethnic unity hinges on building trust; we must put ourselves in others’ shoes and exchange hearts.” Only in this way can all ethnic groups interact, communicate, and integrate more harmoniously, so that “we appreciate the beauty in others, cherish our own beauty, share in this shared beauty, and achieve a world of universal harmony.”

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