Research on the Influence of Interpersonal Communication and

Interpersonal Trust in the Network Age

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Abstract: Through the research of the network communication for 353 students from one of University in Xi'an, the paper analysis the current situation of College students' network communication from the way of network communication for strangers, network help and cyber love.

Keywords: network age; interpersonal communication; interpersonal trust;   influence

I.   INTRODUCTION

In the study of social psychology, interpersonal association[1] is the process of interaction and mutual perception, which means people exchange information, communicates the feeling in social life, which performance as the distance of psychological for people, and reflect the psychological states of people who seek the satisfaction. Interpersonal association can meet peoples' psychological dependence and the sense of integration, sense of belonging, it also can help us regulate emotion and calm the anxiety. With the continuous improvement and development of internet, the internet have the features of anonymity, virtual and equality, network era bring college student new changes about their communication way [2]. The network help the college students make new friends, communicate, and Expand college students' communication space, enrich the communication contents, it also make their communication not constrict to the traditional way but in a new communication stage[3]. The paper is aimed to discuss the relative influence of network communication and interpersonal trust in network era.

II. RESEARCH OBJECTS AND METHODS

A.   The object of study

In this paper, we surveyed selected students from Xi'an Jiaotong University in Sep. 2011- the fourth grade 353 people. Of which 281 are boys and 92 are girls. 261 are Science and engineering students, accounted for 73.9%, 92 are humanities students, accounting for 26.1%. The average age of the students is 20.39 ± 1.363 years old, standard deviation is 1.363.

B.   Research tools

1) Network communication investigation

Basic information and network usage of the participants [4]

2) Interpersonal trust measurement

According to the Interpersonal Trust Scale work out by Rotter (abbreviated as ITS) [5], the scale estimate the degree of be trusted by 25 questions, which including interpersonal trust content of different social role and environment. There are 25 questions and take scoring method, the higher of the score, the higher the interpersonal trust degree, which including all kinds of social roles and personal trust contents.

III. RESULT AND ANALYSES

A. Interpersonal interaction and influence factors

1) Same-sex friends influence factors

The most important 3 factors as following: personality (173 students choose it, take up 49%), hobbies and interest (112 students, take up 31.7%), familiarity (85, take up 24.1%). Personality is supposed to be the most important in same-sex friend., which take up 49%; then it also including: hobbies and interest 23.8%, familiarity 17%, talent and ability 4.2%, age 2.8%, appearance 1.4%; very few people(0.6%) who take the family background and power as the most important; so the order from the high to low should be : personality, hobbies and interest, familiarity, talent and ability, age, family background, power, appearance.

2) Opposite -sex friends influence factors

The first 3 important factors according to the number of selected as following: personality (169 people, 47.9%), hobbies and interest (70 people, take up 19.8%), appearance (62 people, take up 17.6%). Personality is supposed to be the most important for Opposite -sex friend, which take up 47.9%; then it also including: hobbies and interest (19.8%), appearance（17.6%）, age 2.8%, familiarity（14.4%）,

talent and ability （ 16.7% ） , family background(15.9%), age(15.9%) and power (17%).

The significant different factors among the same-sex and opposite-sex are appearance, hobbies and interest, age. For the opposite-sex, the appearance choose is more than same-sex friend, and the same-sex friend pay much attention to hobbies and interest.

TABLE I The First Factors Comparison of Same-sex and Opposite-sex Friend

Group	Same-sex（%）	Opposite sex（%）
personality	173（49%）	169(47.9%)
hobbies	84（23.8%）	41(11.6%)
familiarity	60（17%）	61(17.3%)
appearance	5（1.4%）	30(8.5%)
Talent and ability	15(4.2%)	21(5.9%)
Family background	2(0.6%)	3(0.8%)
Power and position	2(0.6%)	3(0.8%)
age	10(2.8%)	23(6.5%)
totally	353(100%)	353(100%)

B. net-work communication and its related influence factors study

1) Current situation of network interpersonal communication

TABLE II Make Friend On-line

Factors	Classify	Numbers Ration	Male	Female
Make friend on-line	yes	165（46.7%）	133（50.96%）	32（34.78%）
	no	188（53.3%）	128（49.04%）	60（65.22%）
Meet stranger on-line	yes	26（7.4%）	16（6.13%）	10（10.87%）
	no	327（92.6%）	245（93.87%）	82（89.13%）
totally		353（100%）	261（100%）	92（100%）

Table II shows there are 46.7% college students have make friends with strange on-line; which shows that make friends online is common phenomenon. The investigation also shows that there are 163 students have net friends one or two, it takes up 46.2%, 21% students have 3 to 5 net friends, and 105 students have more than 5 net friends, which take up 29.7%, only 11 students have no net friend, take up 3.1%. Then, there are 48 students who keep long time communication with stranger online, it take up 13.6%.

TABLE III   Love Experience Online

Factors	Classify	Numbers Ration	Male	Female
Love experience online	yes	15（4.2%）	14（5.4%）	1（1.1%）
	No	338（95.8%）	247（94.6%）	91（98.9%）
Totally		353（100%）	261（100%）	92（100%）

The table shows that there are 15 students who admit they have love experience online, which take

up 4.2%, the male number is 14(5.4%), and female is 1 (1.1%), we can see the number of female students is fewer or they are unwilling to reveal the online-love experience.

2) The relative effect factors of net interpersonal communication

a）Net interpersonal communication and gender

Compare to the male students, the number of female students is lower; there are 32 female students (34.78%), and the number of male students is 133 (50.96%), but there are 10 female students who meet stranger online (10.78%), the male is 16 (6.13%), higher than male. Then, there are 45 male students who keep long time communication with stranger online, which take up 17.24%, but female students is 3, take up 3.26%, we can see table 2-3. There are 14 male students who have net-love experience (5.4%) and female 1 student (1.1%).

b）The relevance influence of net interpersonal communication and interpersonal trust

TABLE IV Interpersonal Trust Evaluation Score of Different Gender and Major

Factors	Group		Score(x±s)	t	P
Gender	Male		80.91±8.84	3.4***	0.001
	Female		77.42±6.98		
Major	Science	and	79.69±8.71	-1.061	0.289
	engineering				
	Literature	and	80.79±7.96		
	history				

note：***indicate p<0.001，**indicate P<0.01，*indicate P<0.1

There exist significant different in gender for interpersonal trust: the score of male is much higher than female(t=3.4， P=0.001)； Then there is no obvious difference for different major, so it has no Statistical and analysis meaning, the details see table V.

TABLE V Assessment of Network Communication and Interpersonal trust for College Students

Factors	Group	Numbers (%)	Scores(x±s)	t	P
Make friends online	yes	160（46.78%）	80.62±9.06	1.302	0.194
	no	182（53.22%）	79.42±7.99		
Meet friends online	Yes	24（7.02%）	81.21±10.24	0.732	0.464
	no	318（92.98%）	79.89±8.39		
Keep long time Communication online	yes	47（13.74%）	82.72±10.05	2.394*	0.017
	No	295（86.26%）	79.54±8.18		

note：***indicate p<0.001，**indicate P<0.01，*indicate P<0.1

There exist significant different for the factors of keep long time communication online: the interpersonal trust is higher（t=2.394、P＜0.05）, and no obvious different for other factors.

TABLE VI The Comparison Analysis of Interpersonal trust and Net-love, Net-help, Net-cheat

Factors	Group	Numbers (%)	Scores(x±s)	t	P
Net-love experience	Yes	14（4.09%）	85.71±10.57	2.594**	0.01
	No	328（95.91%）	79.73±8.35		
Cheat others online	Yes	42（12.28%）	81.14±7.83	0.945	0.345
	No	300（87.72%）	79.82±8.61		

Help by others online	Yes	182（53.22%）	81.14±8.73	2.706**	0.007
	No	160（46.78%）	78.66±8.10		
Help others online	Yes	196（57.31%）	80.46±8.62	1.207	0.228
	No	146（42.69%）	79.34±8.37		
Identity is true online	Yes	198（58.41%）	79.77±8.66	-0.451	0.652
	No	141（41.59%）	80.19±8.10		

note：***indicate p<0.001，**indicate P<0.01，*indicate P<0.1

We can see by analysis that the interpersonal trust degree is higher for those who have online love experience; and also the score is much higher for those who help others online（t=2.706、P＜0.01）; Which shows there have relationship for the factors of net-love, help others online and interpersonal trust. But there is no difference for those who have true identity online or cheat others online about its interpersonal trust.

TABLE VII The Relative Analysis about Network Communication and Interpersonal trust Spearman

Factors	Interpersonal trust	
	r	P
Reliability of network friends	0.040	0.460
Online-love experience	-0.122*	0.024
Cheated by others online	-0.092	0.088
Cheat others online	-0.082	0.132
Helped by others online	-0.161**	0.003
Help others online	-0.078	0.150
True identity online	0.029	0.598

note：***indicate p<0.001，**indicate P<0.01，*indicate P<0.1

The analysis of network communication and interpersonal trust spearman shows that there is relationship between online-love experiences helped by others online and interpersonal trust.

TABLE VIII Multiple Regression Analysis of Network Communication and Interpersonal trust for College Students

Factors	Non-standardized Coefficients		Standardized Coefficients	t	P
	B	S.E	Beta		
Helped by others online	-2.195	.918	-.129	-2.392*	.017
Online-love experience	-5.236	2.311	-.122	-2.266*	.024

note：***indicate p<0.001，**indicate P<0.01，*indicate P<0.1

The multiple regression analysis of network communication and interpersonal trust for college students shows: there is significant relative influence for the factors of online-love, helped by others online and interpersonal trust.

IV. DISCUSSION AND RESULT

The first 3 important factors for same-sex friends: personality, hobbies and interest, familiarity; for the opposite-sex friend the most important 3 factors: personality, hobbies and interest, appearance.

The first factors for same-sex friends, there exist big different for the appearance, hobbies and interest, age; and for the opposite-sex friends, the appearance, age is much higher than the same-sex, the hobbies and interest is much important for the same-sex friends.

The network era bring college students new change about their interpersonal trust: the network communication become common phenomenon, in the future, the network communication, and online-love will enter college students' social association.

Bases on the above result and theoretical perspective, we hold that the influence of network communication in network age as following: in real interpersonal communication, the most important factors is：Personality, familiarity, appearance, hobbies and interest; but in network communication, interpersonal trust and gender is take as the most important factors.

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