
Cue Weighting in Emotion Perception: Affective Prosody vs. Situational Context

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Abstract

This study explores the importance of situational context and prosody when assessing others' emotional states. Three experiments across 45 participants: assessing whether the emotions in the prosody or context match; choosing the best context for a particular prosody; predicting emotions of a character based on a given story and utterance. Participants perceive when emotions match. When given two contexts and one prosody, responses varied based on the character's voice and the emotion. Whether participants relied on contextual or prosodic cues was left up to chance. Perhaps whether context or prosody dominates in emotional perception relies on a multitude of factors.

Keywords: Affective Prosody, Affective Pragmatics, Psycholinguistics, Cue Weighting

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