

# Review of: "Incorporating 'Effort' into Communication Models: An Exploratory Study"

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**Potential competing interests:** No potential competing interests to declare.

Review comments on "Incorporating 'Effort' into Communication Models: An Exploratory Study"

This paper examines an interesting topic of incorporating effort into communication models. Theoretically built within communication models and communicative effort, the paper is well designed to conduct an exploratory study pointing towards effort as a meaningful construct in inter-personal communication skills.

In general, I think this study is well structured in terms of its theme and research design and I would recommend this paper to publish although I still have some queries or issues as follows.

In the introduction, his research is well theoretically grounded through gleaning the reference sources related to concept of "efforts" and developing a model of assessing communicative effort in communication encounters. This operational model is adopted to examine personal communication encounters taking place in Japan which involve participants talking with friends and parents and exchanging information. That's a very interesting but challenging to propose an abstract concept of "efforts" as a variable to be weighed and incorporated into communication encounters. Indeed, this seems not easy to rationalize and operationalize such a concept in a communicative matrix. I just wonder what motivated the author to start such a research? How important do you think "effort" is for a given effective communication?

Maybe, I think there are some problematic places with the theoretical starting points laid out in the second section. To be honest, that's a good attempt for the author(s) aiming to develop a suitable set of "effort of communication" criteria in this present study by drawing upon the relevant elements in previous communication models such as communication style inventory (CSI), the collaborative model of dialogue, calculated effort and so on. I wonder to what extent these previous models may work together (complement or overlap) to facilitate a newly proposed model accounting for the communicative efforts? In other word, I am bit confused about how communicative efforts are to be extracted and conceptualized out of these models, because to me the communicative efforts may not only exist in both parties of addressers and addressees but also vary from one participant to another in a communication encounter. Thus, the existence of communicative efforts may be well captured in this proposed model but also the measurement of communicative efforts is still not clear to me. Thus, I don't quite understand the outcomes of self-assessment reports from respondents, what are the criteria for a "successful" or satisfactory communication encounters?

In addition, in the following research design, the author proposed an accessible four criteria self- assessment survey based on Topic Knowledge, communication skill, comfortable communication and communication effort. How do they complement? Or do these four criteria overlap? Does a given comfortable communication do nothing with any “effort” in communication? To me, the focus of this paper is on “communicative effort”, which is to be incorporated into the model and thus it seems to be an independent and exclusive variable to consider in any integrated model. What are the explanatory boundaries to define these criteria?