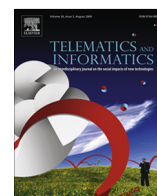




ELSEVIER

Contents lists available at ScienceDirect

## Telematics and Informatics

journal homepage: [www.elsevier.com/locate/tele](http://www.elsevier.com/locate/tele)

# Analysis of the psychological traits, Facebook usage, and Facebook addiction model of Taiwanese university students

Fu-Yuan Hong<sup>a,\*</sup>, Der-Hsiang Huang<sup>b</sup>, Hung-Yu Lin<sup>c</sup>, Su-Lin Chiu<sup>a</sup><sup>a</sup>The Center for General Education, Taipei College of Maritime Technology, No. 212, Sec. 9, Yen Ping N. Rd., Taipei, Taiwan, ROC<sup>b</sup>Graduate Institute of Professional Development in Education, DA-YEH University, No. 168, University Rd., Dacun, Changhua 51591, Taiwan, ROC<sup>c</sup>Department of Occupational Therapy, I-Shou University, No. 8, Yida Rd., Jiaosu Village, Yanchao District, Kaohsiung City 82445, Taiwan, ROC

## ARTICLE INFO

## Article history:

Received 16 December 2013

Received in revised form 3 January 2014

Accepted 5 January 2014

Available online 17 January 2014

## Keywords:

Facebook addiction

Facebook usage

Character

Self-esteem

Social network

## ABSTRACT

The purposes of this study are to (1) identify the role of the psychological traits of university students in Facebook addiction and Facebook usage; and (2) explore the correlation between Facebook usage and Facebook addiction. This study treated 241 university students in Taiwan as the research subjects, and adopted the Rosenberg's self-esteem scale, Lai's personality test, a Facebook usage scale, and a Facebook addiction scale (FAS). The structured equation modeling (SEM) was used for data analysis. The results showed that: (1) self-inferiority can significantly predict Facebook usage; and (2) having a depressive character and Facebook usage can significantly predict Facebook addiction. Finally, discussion was conducted on the findings, and relevant suggestions were proposed for schools, students, and future studies.

© 2014 Elsevier Ltd. All rights reserved.

## 1. Introduction

By October 2013, on average, there were 728 million people on Facebook each day (Facebook, 2013). Facebook users not only frequently sign onto Facebook, but also spend a lot of time on Facebook. A study found that 80.24% of university students believe that using Facebook is an important element in university social culture (Thompson and Lougheed, 2012). Facebook not only has changed the nature of social relationships, but also provided opportunities for individuals to show themselves, share articles, and establish or maintain relationships with others (Boyd and Ellison, 2007; Ellison et al., 2007). Conversely, Facebook usage can also lead to problems of attention distraction poor time management, spending less time studying, and lower academic performance (Krischner and Karpinski, 2010). Since the Internet takes time away from social activity, it thus displaces social ties, in turn hindering well-being (Kraut et al., 1998). Some researchers also think that Facebook usage may have a negative connection between Facebook usage and Facebook addiction (Echeburua and de Corral, 2010; Kuss and Griffiths, 2011b). However, the research shows that the number of Facebook friends, not the time spent on Facebook, predicted college adjustment (Kalpidou et al., 2011). Thus, it is necessary to empirically analyze further the relationship between the time spent on Facebook and Facebook addiction.

Character traits play an important role in addiction formation (Griffiths, 2009). Many studies have shown that character traits such as low self-esteem, shyness, introversion, neuroticism, attack, poor self-control, a high degree of loneliness and a high degree of sadness are all correlated with Internet addiction (Cao and Su, 2006; Griffiths and Dancaster, 1995; Huang

\* Corresponding author. Tel.: +886 982768339.

E-mail addresses: [sames812@gmail.com](mailto:sames812@gmail.com) (F.-Y. Hong), [usb2000usb@gmail.com](mailto:usb2000usb@gmail.com) (D.-H. Huang), [otrlin@gmail.com](mailto:otrlin@gmail.com) (H.-Y. Lin), [slchiu@mail.tcmt.edu.tw](mailto:slchiu@mail.tcmt.edu.tw) (S.-L. Chiu).

et al., 2010; Kim et al., 2006, 2008; Lavin et al., 2004; Whang et al., 2003; Young, 1998). It is known that excessive usage of new technology, such as social networking sites (SNSs) may be especially addictive for adolescents (Echeburua and de Corral, 2010). Although Facebook is popular among many university students; few studies have explored the correlation between Facebook addiction and the character traits of university students (Kuss and Griffiths, 2011b), as well as the correlation between Facebook usage and Facebook addiction. Therefore, this study attempts to analyze the predictors of university student Facebook addiction, as well as the correlation between Facebook usage and Facebook addiction, in order to enhance the understanding of the developmental mechanisms of university student Facebook addiction.

## 2. Literature review

### 2.1. Facebook addiction

People spend a lot of time online, and this can cause them to become potential addicts. However, they are not addicted to the media itself, as some users may develop addictions for specific Internet activities (Griffiths, 2000). The main purposes and motivations for using SNSs are to establish and maintain online and offline relationships; therefore, the addiction to SNSs can be classified as an Internet relationship addiction (Young, 1999). In some extreme cases, researchers have conceptualized addiction to SNSs as Internet spectrum addiction disorders (Karaiskos et al., 2010), listing them alongside other addictive Internet uses such as game addiction, Internet gambling addiction, and Internet sex addiction (Griffiths, 2012; Kuss and Griffiths, 2011a, 2012).

The symptoms of social network addiction are similar to those experienced by individuals addicted to substances or other behavior (Echeburua and de Corral, 2010), including mood-repair experiences (e.g., devoting effort to SNSs resulting in beneficial changes in emotional states), salience (e.g., full attention to the usage of SNSs in behavior, cognition, and emotion), concealment of addictive behavior (e.g., concealing the amount of time spent on SNSs from friends and family), tolerance (e.g., increasing the usage of SNSs to an excessive amount), withdrawal (e.g., experiencing displeasing physical and emotional symptoms when one's usage of SNSs is restricted or blocked), conflicts (e.g., interpersonal and psychological problems due to the usage of SNSs), and relapse (quickly returning to the overuse of SNSs after a period of abstinence) (Griffiths, 2005).

Considering the negative potential effect of substances or behavioral addiction on individuals, it should be noted that devotion to SNSs is not the same as real Internet addiction. For instance, SNSs do not have the pathological uses of Internet applications (American Psychiatric Association, 2000). Currently, there are no effective social network addiction evaluation instruments and standards. For instance, Wilson et al. (2010) only applied three latent addiction standards, while other studies regard university students as being SNS game addicts if they answer more than five out of eight questions on the Internet addiction scale (Zhao et al., 2008). Apparently, the current description for clinical addiction is insufficient. Similarly, significant damage and negative results can only show addiction from abuse, and this is insufficient to evaluate addiction to SNSs (American Psychiatric Association, 2000). Thus, the study of addiction to SNSs needs better methodology, including more representative samples and using addiction scales with greater reliability and validity, in order to make up for the shortcomings of empirical research (Kuss and Griffiths, 2011a). Since there are many Taiwanese university students who use Facebook, and anti-Facebook blogs have estimated that over 0.35 billion people have Facebook Addiction Disorder (FAD; a term coined by American psychologists to explain an individual's inability to control one's actions on Facebook due to Facebook addiction; SickFacebook.com, 2010), this study modifies the Internet addiction scale by Young (1998) to make it suited to the Facebook usage context, as the instrument for evaluating Facebook addiction.

### 2.2. Psychological predictors and Facebook usage

Personal psychological traits play an important role in Facebook usage, and they include the five major character traits, self-esteem, and others. Research has shown that since extroverted people will have more friends, Facebook users may be more extroverted (Amichai-Hamburger and Vinitzky, 2010; Correa et al., 2010; Ross et al., 2009; Ryan and Xenos, 2011; Zywicki and Danowski, 2008) and open (Correa et al., 2010; Ross et al., 2009), and they will be cautious less often (Ryan and Xenos, 2011). Meanwhile, those with neurotic characteristics tend to prefer chatting and making friends online, as well as using news feeds and SNSs, and they are more proactive about using Facebook and other SNSs (Correa et al., 2010; Ebeling-Witte et al., 2007; Ehrenberg et al., 2008). Conversely, introverts will disclose more personal information on Facebook (Amichai-Hamburger and Vinitzky, 2010). SNS self-disclosure has an impact on the change of post hoc interpersonal relationships (Kwak et al., 2014). Shy people will spend more time on Facebook and have a greater number of friends on SNSs (Orr et al., 2009). Frequent Facebook users scored higher on overt narcissism than nonusers (Ljepava et al., 2013). Thus, the relationships between characteristics and Facebook usage still need further analysis.

The self-esteem of adolescents is often connected to peer relationships, especially when their self-value is associated with approval from others (Crocker and Wolfe, 2001; Rosenberg, 1965). Frequent Facebook reported more intimate friendships than non-users (Ljepava et al., 2013). Meanwhile, self-esteem and group identity has a significant positive correlation with the peer group communication of SNSs (Barker, 2009). This shows that when Facebook can provide a connection to other people, self-esteem may affect Facebook usage.

Download English Version:

<https://daneshyari.com/en/article/465329>

Download Persian Version:

<https://daneshyari.com/article/465329>

[Daneshyari.com](https://daneshyari.com)