

Study 1: Scenario Development

To investigate cross-cultural similarities and differences in emotional processes, we need a measurement that is:

- (a) Developed based on cultural norms that are generalizable beyond Western contexts.
- (b) Capable of assessing each emotion separately.

As such, the first step in this project was to indicate cross-culturally generalizable elicitors of six emotion.

Participants from US, Malaysia, China, Japan, and Iran were asked to write scenarios that elicit specific emotions. There were at least 20 participants from each country ($M_{age} = 21.91$, 76% female).

Participants wrote two scenarios for 13 emotions. Coders thematically analyzed the scenarios, and found the most common themes extracted from responses in all cultures to be used in scale development.

Study 2

Based on the themes developed in Study 1, eight scenario-based questions were created for each emotion, such that the participant would rate their “experience” and “expression” of the corresponding emotion for each scenario.

Importantly, target of expression was experimentally manipulated with two levels: (a) Inner circle (i.e., partner and close friend). (b) Outer circle (e.g., casual acquaintances).

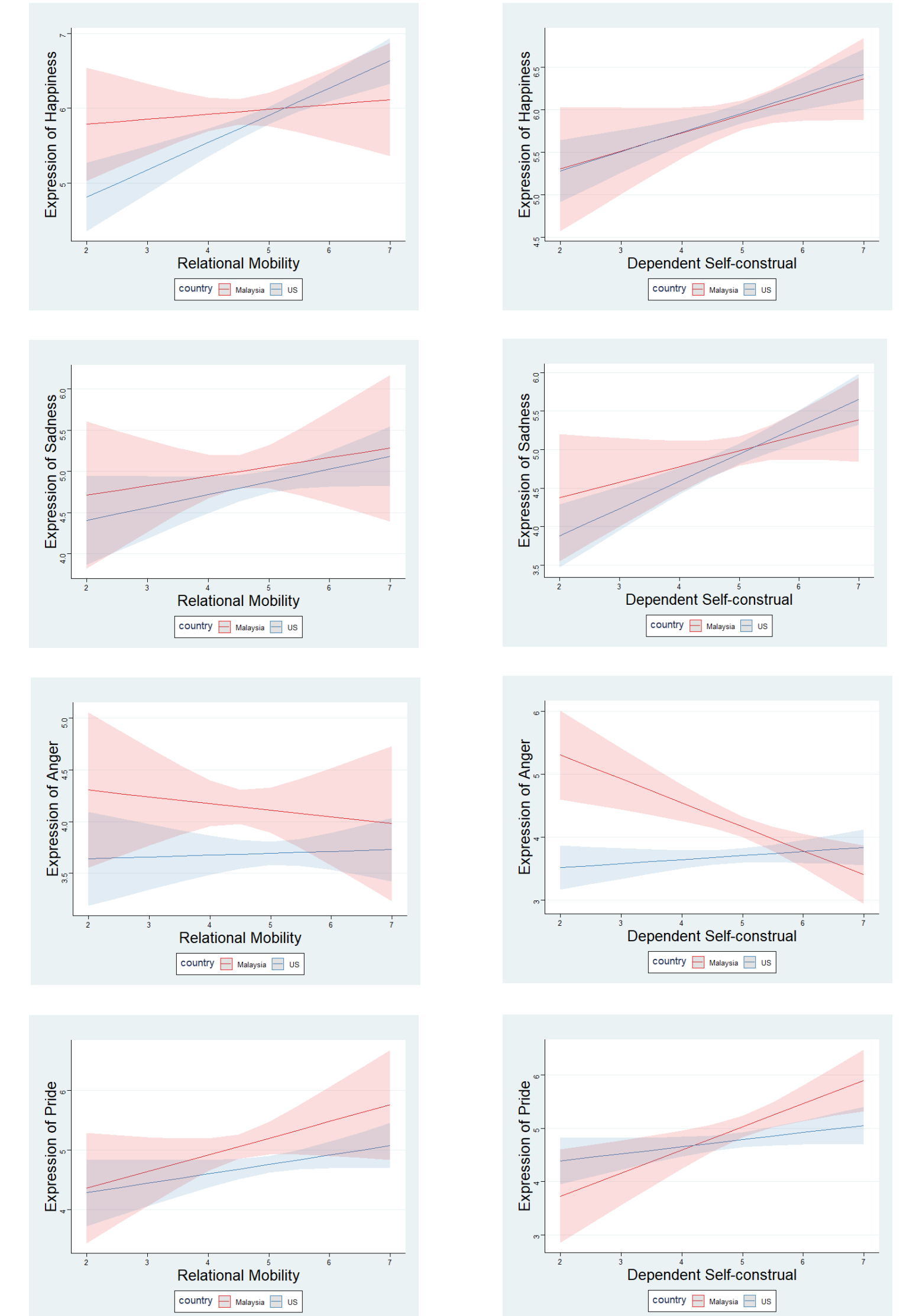
491 participants from the US (67.5% female, $M_{age} = 19.60$) and 256 participants from Malaysia (62.9% female, $M_{age} = 20.04$) completed the study.

Participants completed the scenarios, as well as measures of cultural variables (e.g., relational mobility) and measures of well-being (e.g., satisfaction with life, depression).

Culture and Expressivity

In general, there was a positive relationship between cultural variables and expressivity in both samples, with the exception of anger.

Of the two cultural variables, dependent self-construal was often a stronger predictor compared to relational mobility.



Important note: The target sample size for each country is 400. Data collection from Malaysia has not reached this target yet. Caution is advised in interpreting these results, as estimates from small samples are not stable.

Acknowledgments

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The Most Common Themes for Each Emotion Across Cultures

ANGER

High intensity:

- Betrayal
- Unfairness
- Perception of Harm to self/others

Low/Moderate intensity:

- Inconsiderate Behaviors
- Goal interruption
- Feeling stuck

SADNESS

High intensity:

- Death of a loved one/pet
- Break-up
- Hardship/sadness of a loved one

Low/Moderate intensity:

- Loneliness
- Academic/career failure
- Watching a sad program on TV

PRIDE

High intensity:

- Winning an award/competition
- Overcoming obstacles
- Earning recognition

Low/Moderate intensity:

- Personal accomplishments
- Receiving compliments
- Vicarious pride

JOY

High intensity:

- Marriage
- Hard work paying off
- Feeling loved and appreciated

Low/Moderate intensity:

- Having a nice meal/time
- Unexpected convenience
- Getting something new

DISGUST

High intensity:

- Injustice
- Abuse/Harassment
- Exposure to contamination

Low/Moderate intensity:

- Bad manners
- Exposure to contamination
- Unpleasant taste/odor

FEAR

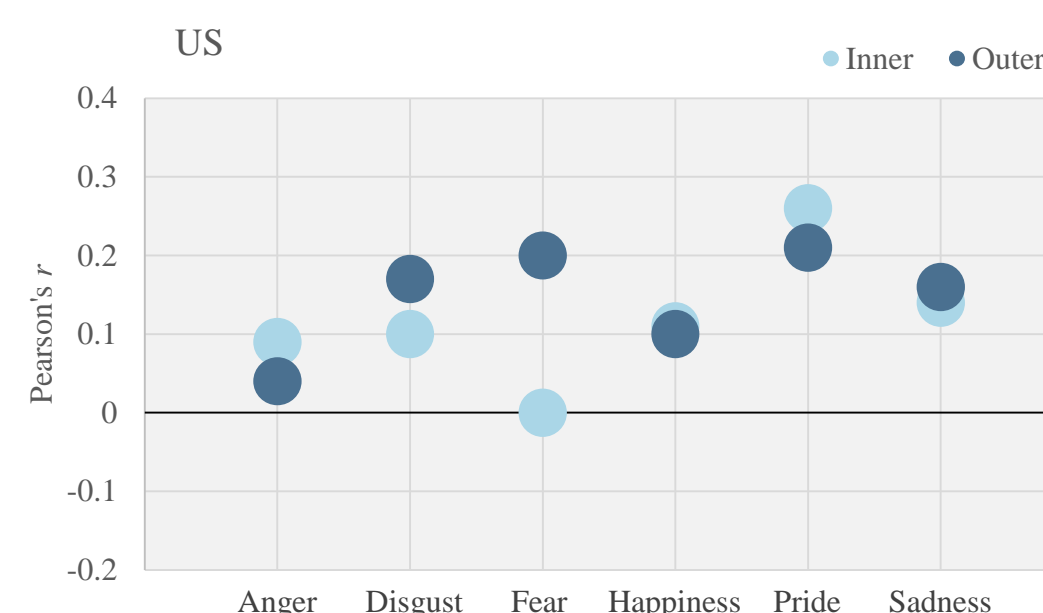
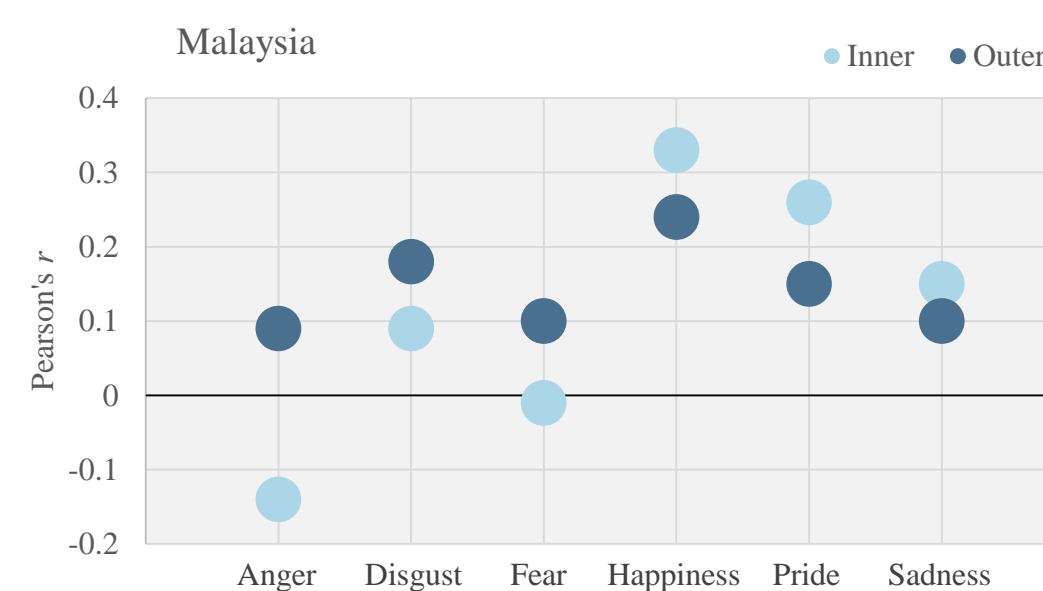
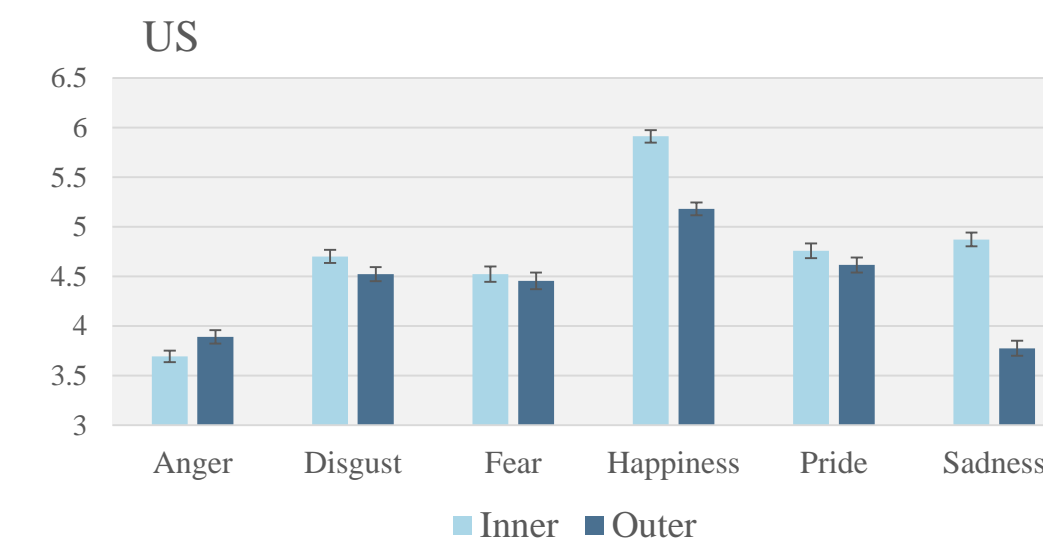
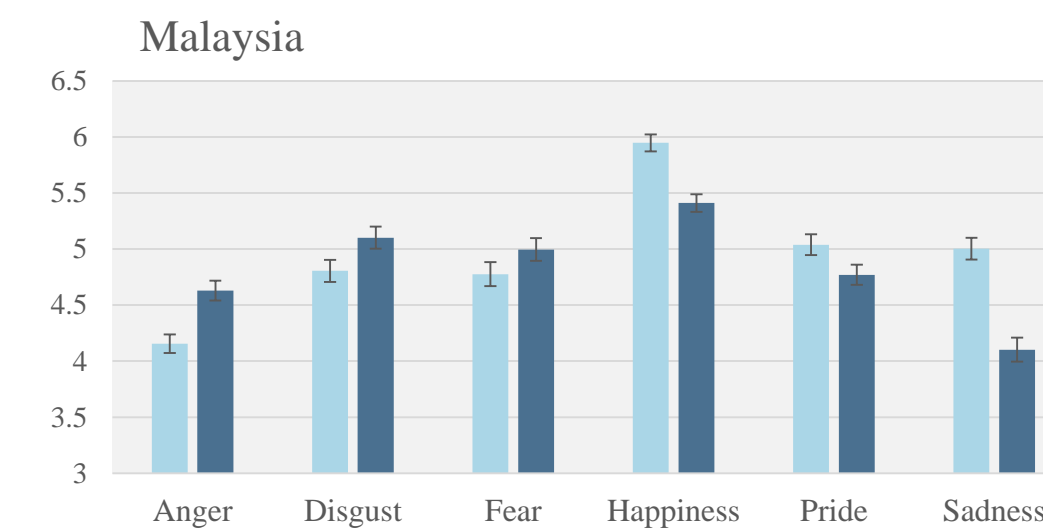
High intensity:

- Being exposed to one's phobia
- Being stalked
- Accidents/natural disasters

Low/Moderate intensity:

- Watching/hearing something scary
- Anticipation of getting hurt
- Missing a deadline

Results



Inner vs. Outer Circle

Participants in both countries expressed more happiness and sadness to the inner (vs. outer) circle.

In both countries, participants expressed more anger and disgust towards the outer (vs. inner) circle; though both of these effects were larger among Malaysian participants.

Relationship with Satisfaction with Life

Expression of happiness and pride had the strongest correlation with SWL among Malaysian and US participants, respectively. Overall, the effects varied by emotion and target, and was stronger among Malaysian participants.