

Calm, Confusing and Chaotic: Investigating Humanness through Sentiment Analysis of Abstract Artworks

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Abstract : This study was done in the pursuit of nuancing the discussion surrounding what it means to be human in a time of unparalleled technological development. Subjectivity was deemed to be an accessible example of humanity to study, and art was a fitting medium through which to probe subjectivity. Upon careful theoretical consideration, abstract art was found to fit the parameters of the study with the added bonus of being, as of yet, uninterpretable from an AI perspective. It was hypothesised that dissimilar appraisals of the art stimuli would be found through sentiment and terminology. Opinion data was collected through survey responses and analysed using Valence Aware Dictionary for sEntiment Reasoning (VADER) sentiment analysis. The results reflected the enigmatic nature of subjectivity through erratic ratings of the art stimuli. However, significant themes were found in the terminology used in the responses. The implications of the findings are discussed in relation to the uniqueness, or lack thereof, of human subjectivity, and directions for future research are provided.

Keywords : abstract art, artificial intelligence, cognition, sentiment, subjectivity

Conference Title : ICCSL 2023 : International Conference on Cognitive Semiotics and Linguistics

Conference Location : Tokyo, Japan

Conference Dates : June 15-16, 2023