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学位論文題目 Effectiveness of Emotional Appeals in Digital Marketing:

Cross-Cultural and Individual Differences in Consumer Persuasion

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論 文 要 旨

This doctoral dissertation covers the dynamics of persuasion utilizing virtual agents and emotional appeals in digital marketing, with a focus on the intricate interplay of personality traits, cultural contexts, and emotional reactions. Existing literature often overlooks the impact of specific virtual agent presentation elements, such as camera angles and facial expressions, while also need to consider how cultural contexts influence emotional responses. Thus, this study, which is based on three interconnected studies, tackles important questions about how these elements affect the effectiveness of persuasive communication in digital contexts.

The first experiment looked at how the presentation of virtual agents, which included adjusting camera angles and facial expressions, affected participants' thoughts. The study experimented with 37 Japanese individuals aged 18 to 24 to investigate whether shared Big Five personality features between subjects and agents influenced persuasion. While there were no significant differences in the personalities of the participants, the findings implied that camera angles and facial expressions had a major impact on opinions. Virtual agents with close-up camera angles and positive expressions (smiling and laughing) were more persuasive, supporting the presumption that positive appearances improve persuasive effectiveness.

The second experiment broadened the investigation by examining how various emotional appeals in animated video advertising affected persuasiveness. There were 17 Japanese participants watched 19 videos, with six designed to elicit specific emotions such as

happiness, sadness, anger, surprise, fear, and disgust. The data revealed that fear was the most persuasive emotion, resulting in a larger intention to acquire health supplements, followed by happiness. Anger, in particular, has a major impact, increasing urgency and pushing rapid buying decisions. The findings demonstrated the subtle impact of emotional appeals in affecting customer behavior.

The third experiment expanded the scope by featuring 313 people from various cultural backgrounds (the United States, Germany, Japan, India, and France) to investigate the interaction of emotional and cultural elicitation in the animated video, cultural dimensions, and personality factors in persuasion. Happiness was shown to be the most generally persuasive emotion, especially in India and France, whereas personality traits such as openness and conscientiousness boosted susceptibility to persuasion. The study emphasized the complexities of cultural influences on consumer behavior, highlighting both the promise and limitations of utilizing country of origin as a cultural indicator.

This dissertation addresses gaps by integrating three experiments that explore how virtual agents, emotional appeals, cultural contexts, and personality traits interact to influence persuasion, with a focus on personalized storytelling as a key novelty. It emphasizes the need to tailor persuasive methods to cultural contexts and emotional reactions, demonstrating that emotions like happiness and fear are more effective in specific cultural settings. The use of AI tools to manipulate facial expressions, body language, and voice tone in animated advertisements further deepens the understanding of how emotional cues can influence consumer behavior across diverse cultures.

審査結果の要旨

本研究は、以下の3つの実験を行うことによりデジタルマーケティングにおいて感情を用いたコンテンツを評価することにより消費者の説得をするためには文化や個人により違いがあることを示した。

- (1) 3Dエージェントの対話システムの表情やカメラアングルの説得の効果, (2) 日本における6感情(怒り・嫌悪・恐怖・喜び・悲しみ・驚き)のアニメーションコンテンツの説得の効果, (3) アメリカ・ドイツ・日本・インド・フランスの5カ国における6感情(怒り・嫌悪・恐怖・喜び・悲しみ・驚き)のアニメーションコンテンツの説得の効果
- (1) の実験では、37人の被験者を用い、特定のカメラアングルの有効性を示し、特定の性格の人が説得されやすいことを示した。(2) の実験は、次の実験のパイロットスタディとして、特定の感情のコンテンツは日本人に対して説得しやすいことと、特定の性格の人が説得されやすいということを示した。(3) の実験では、各国により説得されやすい感情を伴ったコンテンツが異なることを示した。また、各国の特定の性格が特定のコンテンツにより説得されやすいことを示した。(3) の研究では、予備審査時と比べ、調査対象の国を2カ国増

やすことにより合計5カ国となり被験者の人数も313人で大幅に増加されたため、さらなる研究結果が追加された結果となった。

また,5カ国における感情を伴ったコンテンツのデジタルマーケティングの指針,各国における各性格の人に対する感情を伴ったコンテンツのデジタルマーケティングへの指針も追加され,予備審査時よりも議論を深めた内容となった.指摘された内容について修正をすることとなったが博士論文として一定程度の品質であった.以上により,合格とした.