Specific Language as Constituents of Intelligence

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Purpose
The purpose of this paper was to test the hypothesis that specific language components can complement psychometric features and cognitive categories as discernible units of human intelligence.

The Article
This article presented evidence for empirical associations between specific units of language units (distinct from global verbal ability) and cognitive abilities. The authors provided a principal hypothesis that specific language units (precise words and phrases) might function as units of analysis for understanding individual differences in global cognitive abilities, including intelligence.

The study revealed that productive use of specific language in persuasive essays predicted cognitive ability scores on the Cognitive Abilities Test (CogAT). A modest sum of particular words used (range: 0-7) correlated with cognitive factors almost as highly as the ability tests intercorrelated.

What this Means for the Field
Consideration of semiotic sings as basic units of human intelligence holds both theoretical and practical prospects. Results indicate that language and associated reasoning concepts are measurably important elements and architects of cognitive ability and of human effectiveness. Thus, language as an essential group of semantic signs may well be the best unit of analysis for understanding and improving general cognitive abilities.

Citation

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