

- The Proximity error: associated with judging scales, is attributed to the fact that adjacent traits tend to be rated similarly. Simultaneous scoring of color, texture, odor, taste & acceptability on the same set of samples can give different scores from those obtained when each trait is judged individually.
- A Time error or positional bias: i.e. over selection of one sample on the basis of its order of presentation, has been demonstrated in paired tests.
- The Association error: is tendency to repeat previous impressions -a form of conditioned response.

Error of the First and Second kind :

Failure to detect a stimulus that is actually present is called an error of the First kind.

Reporting a signal when no stimulus is present is called an error of the Second kind.

These errors may be caused by expectation and can be influenced by motivation.

The most effective method of improving ratings, and thereby reducing psychological errors, is to train judges, carefully. Training that includes practice, followed by group discussion, has been recommended as being most effective.

Adaptation

When an exposure to a stimulus is prolonged, sensory response declines, i.e. adaptation occurs. This applies to direct sensory response as well as electrical activity. Complete Adaptation, i.e. no response, is possible but is certainly of little importance in the sensory examination of foods. Adaptation appears to be due to some special inhibition of the cell receptor membrane in the case of taste, rather than exhaustion of some receptive substance in the cell. Adaptation is relatively slow at higher concentration. Recovery from adaptation is rapid at first and slows thereafter.

1. The task may be:

Classification: whether the stimulus is present/absent.

Order: the stimulus is greater/lesser

Intervals: the apparent difference between two/more perceptions.

Ratio: report the ratio of magnitude of perceptions.

Magnitude: the magnitude of a perception.

2. Two types of the stimuli arrangement are commonly used.

(1) Fixed Stimuli: not varied during the observation.

(2) Adjustable Stimuli: may be altered during experiment.

Statistical Measures

Usually involve measures of central tendency -median and measures of variability.

Discrimination: relates how two stimuli differ.

Scaling considers how much of stimulus present.

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