Marquette University
e-Publications@Marquette

1-1-1968

Comparative Accuracy of Canadians' Perception of Compatriots and Foreigners

Anees A. Sheikh
Marquette University, anees.sheikh@marquette.edu

Robert C. Gardner
University of Western Ontario

The Ss were instructed to answer in a way they thought the interviewees would. During the second phase, which followed immediately, each interviewee, whose ratings were predicted by the Ss, rated himself on the 25 scales.

The results of the study generally supported the hypothesis that judges perceive an interviewee from another ethnic group less accurately than they perceive an interviewee from their own ethnic group. The accuracy scores were obtained by computing the discrepancy between each S's prediction and the interviewee's actual self-rating.

Each interviewee rated himself on the same scales. During the second phase the same 25 Ss rated the concepts "people from India" and "Canadians" on the same semantic differential scales.

The Ss predicted similar self-rating for the two Indian interviewees ($r = .84$), and also for the two Canadian interviewees ($r = .65$). Although the difference between these two correlations is not significant, there was a tendency for the *Ss* to ascribe more similar self-ratings to the Indian than to the Canadian interviewees. The correlations between the profiles for "people from India" and the predicted self-rating profiles for both Indian interviewees were exactly the same ($r = .73$ and $r = .73$). However, when predicting the self-ratings of the two Canadian interviewees, the first interviewee was considered as one who would rate himself more like the Canadian stereotype of Canadians ($r = .79$) than would the second Canadian interviewee ($r = .46$). The difference between these two correlations is significant ($p = < .01$), suggesting that when predicting the self-ratings of Canadians the *Ss* were able, in some instances, to overcome their stereotypes, while this flexibility was not characteristic of their predictions of the Indians' self-ratings. Neither the two Indians nor the two Canadians perceived themselves as similar to each other ($r = .21$ and $.29$, respectively).

A major finding in the present study was that the Ss were generally more accurate in predicting how the Canadian interviewees would rate themselves than how the Indian Interviewees would. Of the 25 scales, significantly greater accuracy for the Canadian interviewees was obtained on 14 scales, while the Indian interviewees were rated significantly more accurately on only two of the scales. In the light of the previous data, the results can be interpreted to mean that the Canadian Ss were not hampered as much by their stereotypes in the prediction of the Canadian interviewees' self-ratings as they were in the prediction of the self-ratings of the Indian interviewees.