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# LIFE AFTER TAKING THE MYERS-BRIGGS TYPE INDICATOR TOOL: A DISCOURSE ANALYSIS OF THE R/MBTI SUBREDDIT COMMUNITY

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## ABSTRACT

The Myers-Briggs Type Indicator (MBTI) personality inventory tool is popular amongst individuals and companies because its self-reporting questionnaire produces accurate personality results. However, the communities created by MBTI users and the new knowledge that members are making within these communities by using MBTI terminology have not yet thoroughly been researched. An apt platform to research this new knowledge first-hand is the website known as Reddit, using online ethnography to present these results. Despite its reputation as a site solely for play, Adrienne Massanari argues in *Participatory Culture* that Reddit is also a carnival, a performance, a play-space, a platform, and a community (201). Massanari was working to define Reddit as a whole; however, if she had focused on a single community, she would have gained more detailed results. This study analyzed a grouping of 59 posts from the Reddit group devoted to the MBTI tool called r/mbti, by discerning the purpose and what type of knowledge each post attracted. Purposes were grouped into themes to discover what r/mbti members valued, then Legitimation Code Theory (LCT) was implemented to reveal implicit rules within the community. Also utilized were James Gee's theories of discourse acquisition through apprenticeship and Ann Johns' theories on how communities define themselves and exclude others. Results revealed the r/mbti community was motivated by themes of Identity, Community, Truth, and Knowledge. Members were using language in a way that validated the feelings of others who had gathered in the community because they felt misunderstood elsewhere. Overall, this investigation found Reddit to be more than a site for play. MBTI provides the lexis for r/mbti members to utilize in the online community in order to fulfill the important psychological need for camaraderie and knowledge.

## INTRODUCTION

First published in 1943, the Myers Briggs Type Indicator instrument, (MBTI),

Table 1

*The Six Functions of the MBTI Tool (The Myers & Briggs Foundation)*

Function	Definition
Introversion (I)	Introverts direct their attention inward and take energy from their inner world.
Extraversion (E)	Extroverts direct their attention toward their surroundings and gain energy from the outside world.
Sensing (S)	People who prefer to use sensing focus on the details of the situations they are confronted with.
iNtuition (N)	People who prefer to use intuition see overall patterns and possibilities.
Thinking (T)	Thinkers base decisions off principles and logic.
Feeling (F)	Feelers base decisions off values and repercussions.
Judging (J)	Judgers prefer to immediately organize information to come to conclusions and enjoy structure.
Perceiving (P)	Perceivers prefer to fully evaluate, and adjust if necessary, their information before coming to a conclusion.
The 16 personality combinations	ESTJ, ISTJ, ENTJ, INTJ, ESTP, ISTP, ENTP, INTP, ESFJ, ISFJ, ENFJ, INFJ, ESFP, ISFP, ENFP, INFP

was created by a mother-daughter team. Katherine Cook Briggs and Isabel Briggs Myers, inspired by the theories of Carl G. Jung, sought to streamline Jung's work into a more usable and accessible format. The format allows users to understand themselves better through discerning their strengths and weaknesses in areas like communication, learning, and social interactions. The information gained from the MBTI is meant to be used to guide the user toward personal growth and job fields they are most suited for. The team also wanted its use to be ethical and as systematic as possible. Therefore, each question was thoroughly researched and only certified administrators are allowed to conduct the tool. Consequently, in order to take the MBTI, one must pay a

fee for these services. Since these facts are largely unknown to the general public, many websites claiming to have the MBTI for free are widely visited and held by the public to be the true MBTI. Other parties were able to simulate the real MBTI so easily because Jung's theories and descriptions of the terms (extrovert or introvert, sensing or intuition, thinkers or feelers, and judgers or perceivers) have been thoroughly published and are therefore easily copied. For example, introverts prefer to focus on their inner world whereas extroverts do not. Sensing focuses on basic information compared to intuition, which interprets information. Thinkers prefer logic more than feelers, and judgers like to make decisions more than perceivers. All of this is information

available to anyone (See Table 1). This history is relevant to understanding the background of the MBTI and, most importantly, the widespread use of the above terms if not the actual tool. The terms help users understand the results of the MBTI session and become part of the user's lexis to be used later in discussion with certified administrators, family, and peers. This paper addresses a gap in knowledge about how those who have taken the MBTI utilize its lexis to construct in-group community identity.

Research about the tool itself is vast. The MBTI has been researched largely as a management or career counseling tool. And, not long after its appearance, debates about the merits of the MBTI started (Logan). The MBTI has been proven useful on a management level by helping people understand themselves and how to work with others (Costello). On a career-counseling level, the tool has been proven retroactively accurate and therefore it is often used to guide those without jobs into a field of their liking and ability (Goodyear). However, for all of the scientific research and codes of ethical use, the MBTI is basically a way for people to define themselves and, of course, some people are going to have something to say about their types. The tool that provides insight into personality and human behavior has never been researched in conjunction with the community it has initiated.

The focus of this investigation was the overlooked community initiated by the MBTI. What follows is an overview of the r/mbti community, discerning the priorities of the community using thematic analysis, investigating the best way to become part of the community by deducing what type of knowledge is most valued, and discovering what motivates people to use the MBTI other than self-discovery and job guidance. The online forum known as Reddit was utilized in order to investigate the social practices of the MBTI community to find out how the community constructs its identity. A brief literature review illuminates the basis on which this research was built, followed by a breakdown of the theoretical framework that displays the lens and theories used to

inform this study. The Methods section clarifies the data collection and analysis procedures.

## LITERATURE REVIEW

This section briefly discusses existing research. However, this paper focuses on the intersection of MBTI and Reddit, since this intersection has never before been researched. Instead this study investigates the component parts of the research question: How do users of the MBTI utilize the lexis and how do Reddit users create a sense of community? Regarding the social practices of the r/mbti community, the closest research available is Adrienne Massanari's *Participatory Culture, Community, and Play Learning from Reddit*, which does much to shed light on Reddit in general. Reddit is a carnival, a performance, a play-space, a community, a platform (Massanari). Reddit is a space where people "meet" and share ideas. Massanari found Reddit to be a place of activism and mobilization as well as a place for people to be unforgettingly honest about their opinions.

Massanari's overview props Reddit up as a more or less accurate representation of humanity. Redditors can be honest or vindictive, pure or crude, and, more often than not, somewhere in between. Due to the general nature of her research, Massanari provides an excellent overview of the role of Reddit and its Redditors, the themes within Reddit, how Redditors feel about their chosen platform, what Reddit can teach us, and what an analysis of Reddit can tell us about humanity. However, since Massanari does not include an analysis of a specific community she cannot elaborate on certain questions like: What motivates Redditors or how do members classify themselves?

While Reddit has successfully entered the scholarly field through Massanari's book, the r/mbti community has not yet been researched on a scholarly level. In fact, an online search reveals the community initiated by the MBTI is not a source of popular research either. "7 Reasons Why The Online MBTI Community Is Dominated By iNtuitives" is one of the only articles found relating to this topic. In the article, Heidi Priebe

asserts that MBTI blogs, forums, and online communities in general are dominated by intuitives who prefer to use

their instincts and make up only 26.6% of the global population rather than sensors who focus on details and make up the majority (Priebe). Priebe points out that since sensors are the majority of the population, social systems are catered toward them. This leaves intuitives feeling left out, misunderstood, and undervalued, hence their increased involvement in online forums for like-minded people. Priebe makes a logical argument for why intuitives are more attracted to the online scene than sensors but she also does not research a specific community.

While Massanari and Priebe have made initial furrows into Reddit and the MBTI community, neither of them has the data necessary to explore how the interactions of the MBTI community can illuminate human behavior. Therefore, I have formed a query whose investigation will result in information that will supplement what is already known about Reddit and the MBTI community: What practices do r/mbti Redditors use to construct their own community and identity?

## THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK

With the introduction of the internet, the number of discourse communities has exploded. A discourse community, a term originally popularized by John Swales, has a set of common goals, mechanisms of intercommunication primarily to provide feedback, uses and possesses one or more genres, a threshold number of members, and a specific lexis (Swales). Research into these communities can provide unique insight into human nature if their social practices and not only their language use is studied (Gee).

Social practices form an important part of individual or group identity. While identity is what an individual, or a group, is, it is also what they are not. Rather than discourse communities being an open forum that anyone can attend, there are groups that prioritize certain traits over others, and this can lead to selectivity with regard to their members (Johns). However, the layers of traits and rules of a community are, at times, implicit and this makes it difficult for new people to become full-fledged members. Often, this situation can be remedied with a period of apprenticeship, but if experience without knowledge is gained then these apprenticeships can be unsuccessful. A Legitimation Code Theory (LCT) analysis can be useful in revealing the implicit rules of discourse communities by sorting members into specializations: knowledge, knower, elite, and relativist (Maton). Knowing what specialization dominates a

**Table 2**  
*The Four Specializations of Legitimation Code Theory (Maton)*

Specialization	Definition
Knowledge code	Users emphasize what they know in terms of textbook knowledge.
Knower code	Users emphasize who they are in terms of life experience.
Elite code	Users demonstrate both a textbook knowledge and knowledge gained from experience.
Relativist code	Users provide opinions without supporting evidence.

community is helpful in determining what skills a prospective member needs in order to be accepted into said community. LCT can be useful in revealing and therefore helping others learn the rules and values of a community (Maton).

This study draws on a number of theories for research into the identity construction practices of the r/mbti community. First, the discourse community theories developed in Literacy, Discourse, and Linguistics will help illuminate the intricacies of communication such as why a certain post or Redditor is more popular than others (Gee). This theory will also inform the LCT lens implemented in order to sort popular Redditors and posts into categories to reveal what type of knowledge the r/mbti community most values and/or uses (Maton). The study also draws from the theories developed in “Discourse Communities and Communities of Practice” for how r/mbti Redditors identify with their community and if/how they are excluded from their community (Johns).

## METHODS

The way in which r/mbti members utilize the MBTI lexis to make sense of life events, their meaning-making practices, is unique. In order to investigate these meaning-making practices, I chose to conduct an ethnography, defined as a systematic study and description of a culture by the Oxford English Dictionary (OED). At points in this paper, I have used online ethnography, considering I created a Reddit account in order to interact with, and therefore affect, the r/mbti community. I reflect on why I gave certain posts upvotes or downvotes and use my own motivations to shed light on why other Redditors did or did not do the same.

In order to produce comprehensive results, triangulation was used through the application of two approaches: thematic analysis and LCT (DePew; Maton). A thematic analysis revealed popular topics and therefore some of what motivates r/mbti Redditors. Applying LCT helped sort posts into knowledge, elite, relativist, and knower specializations to see which code dominated and thrived in the r/mbti community.

Data was collected through the r/mbti homepage on Reddit. The name of each post was recorded along with the number of votes and comments it had at the time of data collection (See Appendix). A total of 59 posts were collected to conduct a thematic analysis and apply the LCT lens. First, the rhetorical purpose of each post was discerned and then the posts were grouped according to similar purposes: trying to identify oneself, trying to identify others, characterizing type(s), characterizing function(s), forming a sub

Table 3

*Themes and Their Frequency Within the R/MBTI Community*

Themes	Rhetorical Purpose	Frequency (votes/comments)	Examples
Identity	Trying to identify oneself*	12 (71/136)	“Type me” or “Am I an ESTP or ENTP?”
Identity	Trying to identify others	4 (21/35)	“Type my friend”
Identity	Characterizing type(s)	15 (132/292)	“My analysis/typing of the <i>Star Trek</i> characters”
Identity	Characterizing function(s)	11 (25/91)	“Ti-Ne-Si?” or “Ne vs Se on video games”
Seeking community	Forming a sub community	1 (1/0)	“MBTI WhatsApp group”
Seeking truth	Discussing merit*	6 (18/37)	“Best website for MBTI resources”
Quest for Knowledge	Self-improvement	2 (9/17)	“What’s a self-help book that has changed the way you approach life?”
Quest for Knowledge	Promoting understanding through sharing experiences	6 (116/269)	“What’s the worst assumption one has made about your type?”
Quest for Knowledge	Asking for help	1 (1/4)	“How do I handle a desperate ISFJ”
Anomalies	Anomalies	1 (2/6)	“TV/series movie recommendations”
	<b>Total</b>	<b>59 (396/887)</b>	

Note. \* “Is this site reliable? What would my most likely type be based off of this?” is counted as two separate posts: once for discussing merits, once for trying to identify oneself. Examples are titles of one or two posts that can generally represent their respective groups.

community, discussing merit, seeking self-improvement, promoting understanding through sharing experiences, asking for help, and anomalies. Finally, purposes were grouped and sorted into themes (See Table 2).

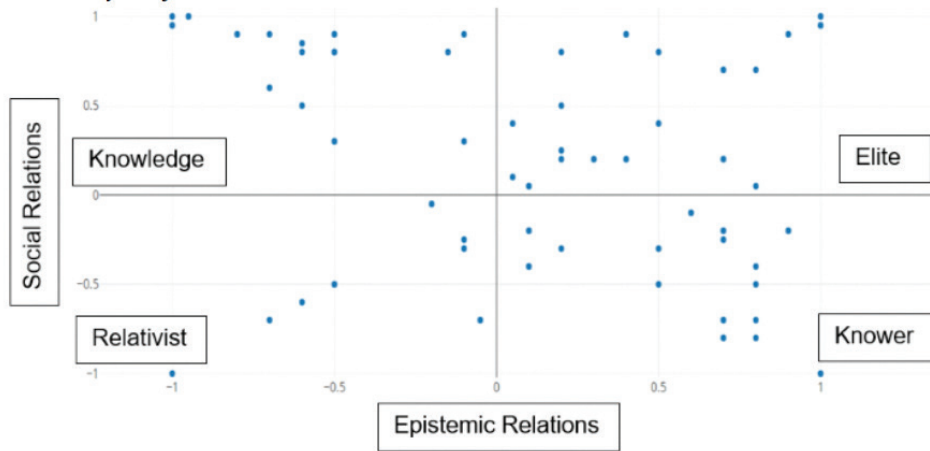
## RESULTS

The thematic analysis revealed that r/mbti Redditors most frequently post about, like, and comment on characterizing types (theme: identity). The post purposes that occur the least are: 1) asking for help, 2) forming a sub community, 3) self-improvement. Anomalies occur rarely, (1/59) 1% of the time. The post purposes that occur the most are: 1) characterizing types, 2) trying to identify oneself, 3) characterizing function. However, this dynamic changes when considering votes and comments. The top three topics that received the most votes and comments are: 1) characterizing type, 2) understanding through sharing experiences, 3) trying to identify oneself.

Note. Epistemic Relations are defined as how much the post attracted Redditors who valued literary knowledge. Social Relations are defined as how much the post attracted Redditors who valued knowledge gained through social interaction (“Theory”).

In order to apply an LCT analysis, the four knowledge specializations were defined. All members used terms such as the four-letter personality groupings, commonly (See Table 1). Therefore, members who used uncommon, but correct, MBTI terms (such as tertiary function<sup>1</sup>, Te<sup>2</sup>, Fi<sup>3</sup>, etc.) were placed on the knowledge code plane. Members whose posts consisted mostly of their personal experiences were placed on the knower plane. The elite plane was used for those who used both uncommon MBTI knowledge and personal experience. Finally, members who used just enough of the common terminology to qualify as members but lacked some sort of

**Table 4**  
*LCT Analysis of r/mbti Redditors*



reasoning behind their statements were placed within the relativist plane.

The LCT analysis revealed that 20 out of the 59 posts catered to those with an elite specialization in the r/mbti community. Also, 15 out of the 59 posts catered to those with a knowledge specialization and 16 catered to those with a knower specialization. Finally, eight out of the 59 posts catered to a relativist specialization (See Table 3).

## DISCUSSION

This section discusses the implications of the findings by sorting them into the thematic subheadings of Seeking Community, Seeking Truth, Quest for Knowledge, and Identity. Also the rhetorical purposes of each theme is explored using emic perspective to hypothesize about the motives of members. The final section will be dedicated to LCT and which codes a prospective member should learn in order to most likely be accepted into the r/mbti community.

### Seeking Community

By far the theme that occurs the least in the r/mbti community is that of seeking community, only one post out of 59. Only one such post occurred within the time frame and had received only one up vote. The fact that this post received so little attention means that r/mbti is fulfilling the needs of its members for a sense of community. Additionally, the link within this post was to a WhatsApp group chat. Group chats, while helpful for keeping everyone in the loop as to what time to meet up, are not known to be a place of extensive discussion. Group chats serve the purpose of informing many people at once and/or being a place of unfocused discussion among friends. On the contrary, Reddit's format supports long posts inside which only that topic is addressed.

This provides a focused discussion that members can join, comment, then leave to join another topic without turning the tide of the conversation completely like they would do in a group chat. Therefore, r/mbti members ignored this post because, in addition to members' sense of community being satisfied, it is also likely that members preferred the format of Reddit. This preference also speaks to the purpose of the r/mbti community to not only find solidarity with like minds but the need for space to discuss and theorize.

### Seeking Truth

Quite a few knowledge code Redditors are members of r/mbti with 15 out of the 59 posts attracting this type of specialization. They are the members most interested in "seeking truth." These Redditors often discuss the merits of the MBTI demonstrating advanced knowledge of its pros, cons, history, and components. A more in-depth look at these discussions revealed this field is made up of steadfast believers and questioners of the tool and they all cite extensive examples to support their position. It is reasonable to conclude that the Redditors that fall into this category want to spread the knowledge that comes along with MBTI or caution people against taking it too seriously. The length and breadth of these discussions are important to note here because it supports the theory that Reddit is not only a place to play. R/mbti members interested in seeking truth often write paragraphs-long posts and receive almost equally as long responses all with evidence supporting their claims. These well-researched posts expressed with informal, and at times "erroneous," grammar are examples of the pure use of language. R/mbti members are using language largely just to communicate without taking time to address grammar. Although there does seem to be a baseline skill level, it

mostly relates to spatial use. As long as members do not do a hard return after every sentence or insert extraneous spaces within their text, their ideas are addressed without grammar prejudice.

### Quest for Knowledge

The "quest for knowledge" category is a strange one. It is the second most popular (nine out of 59) but still far behind the most popular theme (Identity) and includes two of the most unpopular purposes: "asking for help" and "anomalies." As a theme, it is understandable that it is the second most popular theme being that the MBTI was designed to give users knowledge about themselves and others. However, it is by no means a close second. An analysis of the most popular purpose within the theme provides some insight into this conundrum. Only six Redditors made posts that elicited other members to share their life experiences, but an overwhelming 269 responded. Referring back to Gee's theories on community inclusion reveals that the few Redditors who want to know about the experiences of the other types provide the instrumental service of making other members feel included. Additionally, according to basic human vanity, people are more interested in talking about themselves even within a community that wants to learn about other people.

The unpopularity of the "asking for help" and "self-improvement" purposes was also strange considering the aforementioned values of this community. However, it is likely that these posts were simply framed incorrectly to garner attention. Worded instead as a call to people with an ISFJ personality to share what comforts them instead of "How do I handle a desperate isfj," the post most likely would have attention on the level that "promoting understanding through sharing experiences" received because it would have appealed to others' sense of vanity. The same incorrect framing goes for "self-improvement" in addition to a lack of MBTI diction. In all, if the Redditors who posted within these two purposes are to become full-fledged members they must learn to use a baseline of MBTI language and frame their posts within the more popular purposes.

### Identity

"Trying to identify oneself", "trying to identify others", "characterizing type(s)", and "characterizing function(s)" were all placed under the theme of Identity because these posts were concerned with defining things or people. The most popular rhetorical purpose by frequency, votes, and comments was that of "characterizing type(s)." A brief overview reveals that the purpose of the

comments were to contribute knowledge, ask questions, or pose counter points. Members attracted to these types of posts seemed to be a rigorous bunch unsatisfied until the most detailed description could be provided. This practice of relentless description is in keeping with people or groups still trying to construct their identity.

Similar to “characterizing type” is the purpose of “trying to identify others”; however, these categories are separated based on the fact that “characterizing type(s)” was more general and often about more than one type, while “trying to identify others” were posts with one specific person in mind other than the original poster. The slight difference in definition but vast difference in frequency (15 posts concerning “characterizing type” to four posts concerning “trying to identify others”) reveals the r/mbti community is more interested in defining the types rather than defining people using the types. This would seem to indicate that the r/mbti community is more interested in personality theory rather than using the types to understand the people around them. The majority interest in theory over practical application supports Prieb’s assertions that intuitives, who are more inclined to discuss theory, dominate r/mbti.

I expected “trying to identify oneself” to be a more popular purpose before analyzing the data, but upon further contemplation as long as the (true or fake) MBTI tests gave people accurate or likable results, then there was no need to further try and identify oneself in the forum. Throughout the course of this research, I was given the impression that users of fake MBTIs usually received slightly different results each time, such as ISTP and INTJ. However, these results focused the user’s search to the IxTx<sup>+</sup> grouping and, from the in-depth descriptions, they could pick the one most closely related to them. In accordance with the human trait of flattering oneself, it is safe to assume some bias in this picking and choosing method. I believe the theory that one can grow into a different type over time (ISTP at 15 years of age but ESTJ at 30 years of age) gained as much popularity as it did among r/mbti members because users did not feel one-hundred percent certain about their chosen type to begin with.

Lastly, “characterizing functions” was a surprising purpose for an informal online forum. However, when taken into account the number of members who possessed a knowledge code the resulting interest in the finer points of the MBTI tool was less surprising. Members avidly discussed the relationships between the functions. These relationships left a lot to be interpreted, such as how a person

acts when using their Judging or intuitive function and how they act when using both functions together. The functions can stand alone and a person can use one or another to base their actions off of or the functions can combine to result in completely different actions. Within these complex discussions, members seemed to reaffirm their commitment to the MBTI community because it is a community that accepts and celebrates the minute variations that make up individuals.

### LCT

The definitions used for the LCT analysis are as follows: Knowledge code members were well versed in the technical terms and components of the mbti (tertiary functions, Te vs Ti); knower code members relied on their experiences with people whom they knew the type of; those with an elite code talked in technical terms of their real life experiences; and relativists provided opinions without supporting evidence and/or simply commented “cool” or “agree.” Additionally, the hypothesis that most relativists vote rather than comment had no method to measure this theory. This analysis is only an approximation as the time restraints of this study did not allow for the delineation of individual Redditors. Rather, this study investigated which posts attracted the most of each code specialization.

The analysis revealed that elite code dominated the commenting section of 20 out of the 59 posts. It is reasonable to surmise that since humans are a predominantly social species, most members go into the r/mbti community with some understanding of other’s behavior. A basic understanding of human behavior combined with an investigative interest in the MBTI would result in an elitist code specialization somewhat easily. However, as in all societies, there are those that rely more on knowledge or knowing codes. In r/mbti 15 out of the 59 posts were dominated by the knowledge code members and 16 by the knower code members. I would hypothesize that more knowers were drawn to the r/mbti community because they are interested in learning about identity and others, rather than debate (a pastime preferred by knowledge code members). Nevertheless, more data is needed to prove or disprove this hypothesis.

Lastly, eight posts were dominated by relativists wanting to have a little bit of fun guessing the personality types of celebrities. However, the r/mbti community has 32,195 members overall. While it is safe to assume that many of these accounts are inactive, it is also safe to assume that not all members post frequently, or perhaps at all. Therefore, this group of members is classified as

relativist code specialists in the extreme being that they only read through and vote on posts.

### **CONCLUSION**

The Myers Briggs Type Indicator tool is extremely popular. The MBTI is used by various organizations and people for guidance. However, this study revealed other reasons why people take the MBTI. The numerous discussions relating to identity revealed that members longed to fit in and have their daily life practices and feelings recognized as legitimate. The MBTI finally gave users, who felt unrecognized by society, vocabulary to use that they felt accurately described themselves. The MBTI validated their seemingly contradictory feelings and actions; and they reveled in it. The r/mbti community was brought about so members could share their enthusiasm with others that knew the lexicon. This enthusiasm also manifests itself in the longer discussions seeking truth where the ideas were valued far above the use of proper grammar. Last but not least, are the discussions centered around gaining more knowledge? These discussions are essential to maintaining the community because it further validates every member by letting them share their knowledge and experiences with a group of people who will respect them.

In the research of MBTI communities, this investigation brings to light a novel role the MBTI plays; validating the Redditors’ feelings. In a society that criticizes quickly, freely, and as a matter of course, users of the MBTI find solace in its all-encompassing personality descriptions. In furthering research on Reddit, this investigation provides ample positive evidence that Reddit is not simply a place to play. Undoubtedly a place of negative aspects, Reddit is also home to communities like r/mbti that are filled with many intelligent Redditors having their human need to connect fulfilled. In addition, thoroughly researched discussions are taking place on a renowned “play” site for the entertainment of others, calling into question various societal views, such as: those without formal training and research are uninformed and lack the dedication or resources to become so, or, the public in general is uninterested or has no use for “higher” education. The r/mbti community is discussing highly theoretical ideas in their free time and many of them are probably not academics. With respect to discourse communities, research into the r/mbti community revealed that communities naturally form out of need, whether that need be to discuss, commiserate, celebrate, or just acknowledge. Also, due to the total number of members contrasted with the

number of members who post, those possessing a relativist code may be more important to maintaining a community than heretofore discussed.

Some limitations to such a specified and short study are the small sample sizes and time windows. In addition to collecting more data, further studies might benefit from an in-depth analysis of one post, tracking upvotes and comments over time, and analyzing top posts of all time. Additionally, a comparison of comments

to votes might help discern if relativists are more inclined to only vote and how much of an impact this has on the popularity of a post. Data such as this would further illuminate the meaning making practices of the r/mbti community.

Overall, prospective members of r/mbti should arrive equipped with a baseline knowledge of MBTI. Additionally, they should possess either significant personal experience or knowledge in order to become a full-

fledged member. After such requirements are met, the r/mbti community will be more than happy to discuss anything from celebrity personalities to the pros and cons of the Beebe function. Just as long as these new members keep to themes delineated within this paper, they will be in for many well-informed funny validating conversations.

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## Endnotes

<sup>1</sup> One's tertiary function is a skill the individual has access to but it is less developed than the functions of the individual's four-letter sequence.

The ability to use one's tertiary function increases later in life (The Myers & Briggs Foundation).

<sup>2</sup> One who looks for logic and stability outside the self (The Myers & Briggs Foundation).

<sup>3</sup> One who focuses on their own value system (The Myers & Briggs Foundation).

<sup>4</sup> A notation style used to indicate all personality types that include the letters I and T: ISTJ, INTJ, ISTP, INTP

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## Appendix

### Posts within 7 hours (11/5/2018 12:44)

1. "I'm having a hard time accepting my real type" – 24 votes/53 comments (trying to identify oneself)
2. "What is my type" – 5 votes/3 comments (trying to identify oneself)
3. "Normie and NPC meme is just bias against xSFJs in general" – 4 votes/ 3 comments (commentary, characterizing types)
4. "What would you say is your most characterizing function?" – 5 votes/12 comments (direct question, characterizing function)
5. "Ne vs Se on video games" – 1 vote/5 comments (Characterizing function)
6. "Competitive Ne hobbies" – 2 votes/ 6 comments (Characterizing function)
7. "Adjectives you associate with each type" – 3 votes/ 8 comments (Characterizing type)
8. "Type my friend" – 2 votes/ 11 comments (trying to identify others)
9. "MBTI WhatsApp group" – 1 vote/ 0 comments (forming a sub community)
10. "The hidden true of MBTI - cognitive functions are biases of the mind" – 0 comments/votes (commentary, merit)
11. "Stereotypes: INTJ vs INTP (Question)" – 2 votes/5 comments (direct question, Characterizing type)
12. "An amusing observation - relationships" – 1 vote/2 comments (commentary, discussion, characterizing types)
13. "How many INTPs does it take to change a lightbulb?" – 1 vote/ 2 comments (direct question, Characterizing type)
14. "The many uses of the Beebe Model" – 1 vote/ 2 comments (commentary turned discussion, merits)

### Posts within 1 day (11/12/2018 12:41pm)

1. "Leadership qualities of each type" – 1/0 (Characterizing functions)
2. "Type iconic protagonists" – 2/2 (Characterizing functions)
3. "Thinking vs. feeling (yes, yet another question about this)" – 2/2 (direct question, characterizing functions)
4. "Is depression more commonly found in some personality types than others" – 12 votes/13 comments (characterizing type)
5. "Ti-Ne-Si?" – 0/11 (Characterizing function)
6. "What's a self-help book that has changed the way you approach life?" – 3/7 (direct question, self-improvement)
7. "What's the one thing you wish the opposite types would understand?" – 4/18 (direct question, promoting understanding through sharing experiences)
8. "What champions do you guys main in league of legends?" – 1/11 (direct question, characterizing type)
9. "Tv/Series/Movie recommendations" – 2/6 (anomaly, unrelated)
10. "MBTI and parents/siblings" – 2/6 (promoting understanding, discussion)
11. "How do I handle a desperate isfj" – 1/4 (direct question, asking for help understanding)
12. "Say something nice about a type that's not yours!" – 50/119 (characterizing type)

13. "best way to figure out which type you are" – 3/1 (trying to identify oneself)
14. "INEJ "hate" thread" – 0/11 (characterizing type)
15. "Let's Play a Game!" – 2/3 (characterizing type)
16. "If you could trade types for one to seven days which type would you trade with and why?" – 4/22 (characterizing types – by saying what they think they would get out of being those types)
17. "Am I confused about my type, or just about my life?" – 1/2 (trying to identify oneself)
18. "Are Ji doms usually the most authentic?" – 3/8 (characterizing functions)
19. "What does every function look like in its inferior and PoLR form?" – 8/31 (characterizing function)
20. "Is r/shittyreactiongifs an example of Ni-Te?" – 0/4 (characterizing function)
21. "Liza Koshy" – 1/5 (trying to identify others)
22. "What's the worst assumption one has made about your type?" – 22/86 (promoting understanding)
23. "Type me" – 2/7 (Trying to identify oneself)
24. "Sociopath's results on the MBTI test" – 53/49 (promoting understanding)
25. "INFP testing as ESTJ" – 6/3 (trying to identify oneself)
26. "Getting reaction out of people, what is this?" – 11/22 (trying to identify oneself)
27. "J's, how do you organize your life and task lists?" – 6/ 10 (direct question, self-improvement)
28. "Do any critics reject MBTI because they believe certain MBTI types/combinations are not normal or possible?" – 11/26 (merits)
29. "Post your current phone wallpaper or desktop background" – 2/29 (promoting understanding)
30. "Does a very confident INTJ transform into an ENTJ" – 0/12 (characterizing types)
31. "Dominant Introverts" – 42/77 (characterizing type)
32. "Can you grow up as an ISFJ only to develop more functions as you grow up and be more INFP?" – 0/12 (Trying to identify oneself)
33. "Is this site reliable? What would my most likely type be based of this?" – 1/4 (trying to identify oneself/ merits of certain sites)
34. "Am I possibly just an unhealthy INFP? or something entirely different?" – 6/2 (trying to identify oneself)
35. "Why do Ji doms seem to value "closure" so much?" – 1/10 (direct question, characterizing functions)
36. "ExTP?" – 8/16 (trying to identify oneself)
37. "Meghan Markle?" – 6/7 (trying to identify others)
38. "Are the IDRlabs tests accurate?" – 5/7 (discussing merits)
39. "My analysis/typing of the Star Trek characters" – 8/3 (characterizing types)
40. "I've scoured the internet and have yet to find a MBTI typing thread for Everwood" – 2/1 (characterizing types)
41. "Do type rivalries exist?" - 33/81 (promoting understanding)
42. "I accurately typed someone in real life!!!!" – 12/12 (trying to identify others)
43. "Best website for mbti resources?" – 1/6 (discussing merits)
44. "Am I an estp or entp?" – 5/15 (trying to identify oneself)