INFLUENCE OF ADVERTISING ATTRIBUTES ON AUDIO AD EFFECTIVENESS

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ABSTRACT

This research focuses on the key attributes of audio advertising. Content analysis are conducted for the 121 audio ads objects with labels of attributes. Regression models and cluster analysis are then conducted based on the data collected from surveys. As a result, we find the relationship between attributes and willingness to buy, willingness to recommend a product and enjoyment level of an audio ad.

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

Lingyi Xu, Lu Wang and Yingying Yu are all current Master of Professional Studies students at Cornell University, Ithaca, New York.

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iv

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Biographical Sketch	iii
Acknowledgements	iv
Chapter 1	1
Chapter 2	3
Chapter 3	8
Chapter 4	35
Work Cited	37
Appendix	39

LIST OF TABLES

Table 1 Audio Ads attribute labels	3
Table 2 Summary of the number of ad evaluations	5
Table 3 Advertisers with Top 15 Enjoyment score	8
Table 4 Advertisers with Bottom 15 Enjoyment score	9
Table 5 Correlation between effectiveness metrics	10
Table 6 Regression between relevance score and reason dimensions	12
Table 7 Regression between enjoyment score and reason dimensions	13
Table 8 Regression between purchase score and reason dimensions	14
Table 9 Regression between more info score and reason dimensions	15
Table 10 Regression between recommendation score and reason dimensions	16
Table 11 Regression between relevance score and reason dimensions	18
Table 12 Regression between enjoyment score and reason dimensions	19
Table 13 Regression between purchase score and reason dimensions	20
Table 14 Regression between more info score and reason dimensions	21
Table 15 Regression between recommendation score and reason dimensions	22
Table 16 Cluster groups summarized by recommendation score	23
Table 17 Cluster groups summarized by purchase score	24
Table 18 Tabulation between gender and cluster group (by recommend score)	25
Table 19 Tabulation between age of respondents and cluster group (by recommend score)	26
Table 20 Tabulation between race of respondents and cluster group (by recommend score)	2.7

Table 21 Tabulation between gender of respondents and cluster group (by recommend score)2
Table 22 Tabulation between income of respondents and cluster group (by recommend score)29
Table 23 Tabulation between race of respondents and cluster group (by purchase score)3
Table 24 Tabulation between marital of respondents and cluster group (by purchase score)32
Table 25 Tabulation between income of respondents and cluster group (by purchase score)3

CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION

Recently, audio advertising has become a new form of audio advertising in music stream services. Audio ads are defined as the ads that are exposed to audio messages from advertisers between two different songs when users are listening to music (Samaneh et al, 2018). By analyzing audio advertisements, not only advertisers can ensure a better user experience resulting in longer user engagement, but they also can get higher advertising revenues from it.

Existing efforts towards ad analysis have mainly focused on visual perceptions such as display ads and text ads, in which audio perceptions were largely ignored (Eric Sodomka et al., 2013). The attributes of typical audio ads consist of its message, music accompaniment, production effects, and the number of speakers, as well as the speakers' tone, tempo, and gender (Meinard Müller, 2015). In the fields of Digital Signal Processing (DSP) and Music Information Retrieval (Music-IR) acoustic features are computed from the audio signal to capture elements of timbre, rhythm, and harmony, which can be used to model high-level subjective concepts, such as genre and mood of sound and audio understanding (Meinard Müller, 2015). Latest research have shown some interesting findings that speaking slowly with less jarring sound effect and only simple music can lead to better audio ad quality, and conversational tones are usually more engaging (Samaneh Ebrahimi, 2018).

Some researchers also proved the illustrated effects of audio advertisements, in which audio ads could be able to produce an image inside listeners' minds. Such finding supports the application of perception-based conceptualization to process audio-evoked images (Emma Rodero,

2010). Auditory processing of message calls for the listener to use a host of sensory and perceptual skills to extract meaningful information from sound (Kraus & Banai, 2007). Therefore, the finding may be applied to any audio fiction product using acousmatic sounds. Furthermore, the conclusions drawn in the research are of great interest for the audio industry and can be directly applicable to the teaching of sound, especially of radio production (Emma Rodero, 2010).

Our project focuses on how advertising attributes influence the effectiveness of audio ads. It aims to answer the following three research questions:

- (1) What audio ad features are the most effective, that is, can get the highest evaluations by participants?
- (2) How do the reasons for Liking/Disliking of audiences influence the Effectiveness of ads?
- (3) How do the attributes of ads influence the Effectiveness of ads?

CHAPTER 2

METHODOLOGY

The study focuses on the influence of advertisement attributes on effectiveness of audio ads.

To get the answer of the research questions, data analysis was conducted using regression models and crosstabs with the data collected from surveys.

2.1 Ads Coding

We got in total 121 audio ads from the internet radio company with unique ad IDs from 1 to 121 for each object. All the objects were coded with advertisement attributes including Narrator Gender, Number of Voices, Narrator Age, Narrator Accent, Spanish Included or Not, Direction of Words, Keywords, Pronunciation, Ads Length, Music Bed, Music Bed Genre, Music Bed Tempo, Instrumentation, and Advertiser Industry. All the attributes and levels are listed in Table 1 below:

Table 1 Audio Ads attribute labels

Attribute	Levels	
Narrator Gender	Female	
	Male	
	Both	
Number of Male Voices	/	
Number of Female Voices	/	
Number of Voices in Total	/	
Narrator Age	Child	
	Young	
	Middle	
	Old	
Narrator Accent	American/Canadian	
	British	
	Australian	
	Other	
Spanish Included	Yes	
	No	

Direction of Words	/	
Keywords	/	
Pronunciation	/	
Ads Length	(Calculated in sec.)	
Music Bed	Yes	
	No	
Music Bed Genre	Ambient	
	Blues	
	Cinematic	
	Country	
	Electronic	
	Folk	
	Indie	
	Pop	
	Post Rock	
	Rock	
	Soul	
	Нір Нор	
Music Bed Tempo	(calculated in BMP)	
Instrumentation	Guitar	
	Drums	
	Brass	
	Trumpet	
	Sax	
	Piano	
	Keyboard	
	Violin	
	Other	
Advertiser Industry	Retail	
	Automotive	
	Education	
	Health Care	
	Financial/Insurance	
	Shipping	

Those attributes, used as regression predictors later on, were selected based on the business options offered by the internet radio company to the advertisers. Besides, some attributes were

added to this study due to the pilot surveys, which were distributed in the first phase of the study to see what attributes might have an impact on effectiveness of audio ads.

2.2 Survey Design

The formal audio ads effectiveness scoring survey consisted of 7 audio ads and 10 questions after each ad. Each respondent was first asked to listen to an ad, which is randomly picked up from the pool of 121 audio ads. Based on the advertisement, survey included questions about who the advertiser is to make sure that the respondent is treating the survey carefully. The following five questions asked the respondents to score the audio ad on a scale of 0 to 100 for each effectiveness metric, including relevance with the product, enjoyment of the ad, willingness to get more information, willingness to purchase the product, and willingness to recommend the product to others. Questions 7 to 10 were check-box questions asking about the reasons for liking or disliking the audio ad they heard, with options including: message clarity, sound clarity, trustworthiness, entertainment value, familiarity, and music of the ad. This process of above 10 questions was repeated for the additional 6 randomly selected ads and at the end of the survey, respondents were asked to recall the ads in the order from the most memorable to the least memorable. They were also asked to give answer to demographic questions about their gender, age, race, marital status, income, and zip code.

2.3 Data Collection

The survey was distributed via Amazon Mechanical Turk and every respondent received \$2 for completing the survey. 498 valid responses were received at the end. In each survey, the respondent listened to 7 ads that were randomly picked from the pool of 121 ads. Therefore, each

ad on average received evaluations from 29 people. The summary of the number of each ad evaluation is shown below:

Table 2 Summary of the number of ad evaluations

Total Number of Evaluations	3486
Average Number of Evaluations	28.81
Max Number of Evaluations	44
Min Number of Evaluations	16
Standard Deviation of Number of Evaluations	4.6

2.4 Data Analysis

We conducted crosstab analysis, descriptive analysis and regression analysis. For regressions, we took effectiveness scores as dependent variables and advertisement attributes as predictors, and constructed the mixed effect linear regression model as below:

$$Y_i = \beta_0 + \sum_{j=1}^n (\beta_j \times X_j) + \alpha_i + \gamma_i$$

To specify:

- \circ Y_i = Effectiveness Score
- \circ $X_j = \text{Attribute j}$
- \circ β_j = Effect of Attribute j
- \circ α_i = Respondent Effect \sim N(0, σ_1^2)
- \circ $\gamma_i = \text{Ad Effect} \sim N(0, \sigma_2^2)$

When running regressions, we took male narrator, middle age, American accent, no Spanish included and no music bed as the excluded values. The regressions results compared the effectiveness scores of the combinations of other attribute levels with the default ones.

CHAPTER 3

DATA ANALYSIS

3.1 Descriptive Analysis

The respondents were asked how much they enjoy the ads they listened based on a 100-point scale. We wanted to find out what were the likely reasons that affected the enjoyment scores. By doing this, first we ranked all of the ads by average enjoyment score. Then we analyzed the Top 15 and Bottom 15 ads and scores. Finally, we did descriptive analysis of why respondents enjoyed or not enjoyed the ads. The findings are as follows.

Analyzing the attributes and respondents' comments of Top 15 ads, we found some likely reasons that might positively influence the enjoyment score:

1) Respondents may enjoy ads with music like Pop and Blues, or ambient sounds. 2) Respondents may enjoy music that includes sounds from instruments such as drums, piano or guitar. 3) Respondents may enjoy ads in the forms of dialogues, storytelling or conversations that can quickly set them in a situation. 4) Respondents may enjoy ads with narrators speaking gently, or with tone up. 5) Respondents may enjoy ads of the products or brands they are familiar with. 6) Respondents may enjoy ads with British accents.

Table 3 Advertisers with Top 15 Enjoyment score

Top Rank	Advertiser	Enjoyment Score
1	Cumberland Farms	64.565
2	Ann & Robert H. Lurie Children's Hospital of Chicago	60.419
3	Shipt: Grocery Delivery	60.160

4	State Farm	59.481
5	Dominion Jewelers	59.387
6	Mattress Firm	58.548
7	Wells Fargo App	58.485
8	Publix Green Wise organic grocery store	58.235
9	Party City	57.458
10	O'riley Auto Parts	57.336
11	Home Depot	56.567
12	Firefly Credit Union	56.172
13	Akron Children's Hospital	56.042
14	Elephant Auto Insurance	55.923
15	29th Street.com	55.917

Relatively, by analyzing the attributes and respondents' comments of Bottom 15 ads, we also found some likely reasons that might negatively influence the enjoyment score: 1) Respondents may not enjoy ads with narrators speaking fast or speeding up.2) Respondents may not enjoy ads with no music or ambient sounds.4) Respondents may not enjoy ads with narrators using aggressive voices or in a salesman tone. 5) Respondents may not enjoy ads that are not relevant to them.

Table 4 Advertisers with Bottom 15 Enjoyment score

Bottom Rank	Advertiser	Enjoyment Score
1	VITAS Healthcare	41.400
2	Amarillo National Bank	41.167
3	Chevrolet	39.500
4	University at Albany, School of Public Health	39.400
5	American Family Insurance	39.231
6	University Credit Union	39.226
7	Advia Credit Union	39.069
8	SELCO Community Credit Union	38.636
8	Stanford Children's Health	38.636
10	Kumon	38.440
11	Airport dealership	37.862
12	Plato's Closet	37.833
13	CCRM	37.750
14	Toyota	37.057
15	Commerce Bank	36.969

3.2 Regression Analysis

3.2.1 Correlations Between Effectiveness Metrics

Before regressions were conducted, correlations between the effectiveness metrics were calculated to see which scores valid dependent variables should be. According to the correlation table as below:

Table 5 Correlation between effectiveness metrics

	Relevance	Enjoyment	More Info	Purchase	Recommendation
Relevance	1				
Enjoyment	0.52	1			
More Info	0.73	0.63	1		
Purchase	0.77	0.60	0.83	1	
Recommendation	0.54	0.67	0.69	0.68	1

The correlations are mostly larger than 0.6, indicating that the five metrics are highly correlated. Although advertisers may care most about the purchase conversion rate and the willingness to recommend the product to others as an indicator of sales performance and brand awareness, the scores of relevance, enjoyment, and getting more info should also be attached emphasis to as they all have a significant influence on the effectiveness result. Therefore, in the regression, we took all the five metrics as responses to see the influences of attributes.

3.2.2 Regressions on effectiveness scores and reason dimensions

For the regressions, we took the 0.05 significance level and thus taking the cutoff t-value at 1.65.

The regression results show that ad trustworthiness, ad entertainment, ad familiarity and message clarity all have a significantly positive influence on the effectiveness scores. Among them, familiarity affects relevance score most, while trustworthiness affects recommendation score most. People evaluate the relevance of ads with a higher score when they hear a familiar product and are more willing to recommend the product to others if the audio ad makes the product feel trustworthy. Besides, ad entertainment level has the largest impact on the scores of enjoyments, willingness to buy and willingness to get more information. In addition, sound clarity and music of the ads also affects the enjoyment score.

The regression results are shown in the table as follows:

Table 6 Regression between relevance score and reason dimensions

	Estimate	Std. Error	t-value
(Intercept)	38.6749	2.0839	18.559
like_claritymessage	5.4772	1.1235	4.875
like_claritysound	0.2536	1.1219	0.226
like_trustworthy	3.8692	1.1353	3.408
like_entertaining	8.3633	1.3999	5.974
like_familiar	11.2332	1.3095	8.578
like_music	-1.6607	1.3573	-1.223
like_other	3.1880	2.9797	1.070
like_none	-11.3647	1.7637	-6.444
dislike_claritymessage	-3.9457	1.7743	-2.224
dislike_claritysound	1.0279	2.2032	0.467
dislike_trustworthy	1.3217	1.6228	0.814
dislike_entertaining	-3.0773	1.4108	-2.181
dislike_familiar	-3.2874	1.5061	-2.183
dislike_music	2.0546	1.6572	1.240
dislike_other	-7.6351	1.7829	-4.282
dislike_none	1.1401	1.5384	0.741

Table 7 Regression between enjoyment score and reason dimensions

	Estimate	Std. Error	t-value
(Intercept)	39.3814	1.3199	29.836
like_claritymessage	6.4852	0.7420	8.740
like_claritysound	4.6615	0.7442	6.264
like_trustworthy	7.5437	0.7481	10.084
like_entertaining	13.5954	0.8976	15.146
like_familiar	4.1043	0.8183	5.015
like_music	7.4410	0.8639	8.613
like_other	8.3013	1.9465	4.265
like_none	-9.8250	1.1591	-8.476
dislike_claritymessage	-6.9633	1.1434	-6.090
dislike_claritysound	-3.2248	1.4236	-2.265
dislike_trustworthy	-6.9366	1.0598	-6.545
dislike_entertaining	-7.8617	0.9331	-8.426
dislike_familiar	-1.5927	0.9694	-1.626
dislike_music	-4.4526	1.0826	-4.113
dislike_other	-9.0456	1.1688	-7.739
dislike_none	3.0639	1.0145	3.020

Table 8 Regression between purchase score and reason dimensions

	Estimate	Std. Error	t-value
(Intercept)	28.0086	1.8370	15.247
like_claritymessage	5.5803	0.9835	5.674
like_claritysound	0.7156	0.9828	0.728
like_trustworthy	5.9952	0.9928	6.039
like_entertaining	10.4092	1.2165	8.556
like_familiar	10.8189	1.1347	9.534
like_music	-1.5649	1.1823	-1.324
like_other	5.0231	2.5876	1.941
like_none	-8.9053	1.5383	-5.789
dislike_claritymessage	-3.4904	1.5380	-2.269
dislike_claritysound	-0.3208	1.9096	-0.168
dislike_trustworthy	-2.6654	1.4130	-1.886
dislike_entertaining	-2.7631	1.2336	-2.240
dislike_familiar	-3.0480	1.3108	-2.325
dislike_music	0.5950	1.4449	0.412
dislike_other	-7.8863	1.5573	-5.064
dislike_none	3.6212	1.3432	2.696

Table 9 Regression between more info score and reason dimensions

	Estimate	Std. Error	t-value
(Intercept)	30.0782	1.8831	15.973
like_claritymessage	7.3873	1.0368	7.125
like_claritysound	1.0860	1.0370	1.047
like_trustworthy	7.4141	1. 04620	7.087
like_entertaining	11.7932	1.2752	9.248
like_familiar	10.0880	1.1827	8.530
like_music	-0.1654	1.2371	-0.134
like_other	8.5543	2.7242	3.140
like_none	-8.2934	1.6206	-5.117
dislike_claritymessage	-4.0900	1.6144	-2.533
dislike_claritysound	-1.2328	2.0061	-0.615
dislike_trustworthy	-3.7560	1.4869	-2.519
dislike_entertaining	-5.5509	1.3011	-4.266
dislike_familiar	-3.0419	1.3779	-2.208
dislike_music	-0.5064	1.5203	-0.333
dislike_other	-8.3501	1.6395	-5.093
dislike_none	1.5296	1.4160	1.080

Table 10 Regression between recommendation score and reason dimensions

	Estimate	Std. Error	t-value
(Intercept)	39.9533	1.5957	25.039
like_claritymessage	7.6086	0.8776	8.670
like_claritysound	0.6257	0.8793	0.712
like_trustworthy	7.9817	0.8847	9.021
like_entertaining	7.5529	1.0670	7.078
like_familiar	8.4898	0.9799	8.664
like_music	0.8345	1.0320	0.809
like_other	6.6179	2.2961	2.882
like_none	-11.1810	1.3490	-8.167
dislike_claritymessage	-6.4421	1.3538	-4.758
dislike_claritysound	0.8663	1.6838	0.514
dislike_trustworthy	-6.0001	1.2532	-4.788
dislike_entertaining	-5.1931	1.1019	-4.713
dislike_familiar	-4.6883	1.1594	-4.044
dislike_music	-1.8146	1.2813	-1.416
dislike_other	-7.2131	1.3836	-5.213
dislike_none	3.9685	1.1979	3.313

3.2.3 Regressions between effectiveness scores and reason dimensions

Likewise, we took the 0.05 significance level and thus taking the cutoff t-value at 1.65.

According to the wide range of regressions, it is shown that audio ads with both male and female narrators tend to have a higher score of willingness to buy, to get more information and to recommend the product to others. However, the number of voices has a negative correlation with willingness to get more information, indicating that an increase in the number of voices will lead to a decrease in the score for wanting more information. Meanwhile, comparing to the middle voice, child voice can increase the relevance and more info score, whereas old voice adds only to the relevance dimension. Spanish is negatively related with the score of enjoyment, willingness to get more information, and willingness to recommend, Compared with American accent, British accent seems to be liked by the consumers, increasing the enjoyment score, while 'other accent'

including French and Asian accents influences enjoyment and more info scores negatively.

Meanwhile, Australian accent is positively correlated with relevance score, but negatively correlated with enjoyment score.

In terms of audio ads music bed, the audios with background music have a better effectiveness score on relevance, willingness to buy, and willingness to recommend. Among all the music genres, pop music is the one that has a statistically significant influence with a positive coefficient on all the effectiveness scores. Alongside, ambient music also contributes positively to the willingness of getting more info, purchase and recommendation likelihoods. Moreover, instrumentations do not have a significant influence, but sax has a positive influence on the willingness to recommend the product to others.

The regression results are shown in the table as follows:

Table 11 Regression between relevance score and reason dimensions

	Estimate	Std. Error	t-value
(Intercept)	41.8901	14.8587	2.819
female_gender	0.3163	2.9041	0.109
both_gender	5.8222	3.9704	1.466
child_voiceage	10.4583	11.0104	0.950
old_voiceage	13.7439	8.2675	1.662
young_voiceage	0.6729	2.7402	0.246
aus_accent	11.6974	6.6153	1.768
brit_accent	3.2764	13.7748	0.238
other_accent	2.4125	9.1427	0.264
spanish_accent	1.7556	13.6271	0.129
yes_musicbed	8.8128	4.9998	1.763
ad_numberofvoices	-1.2773	1.0340	-1.235
yes_spanish	-21.0255	11.9307	-1.762
instr_drums	-3.9426	3.1086	-1.268
instr_guitar	-0.3172	3.3536	-0.095
instr_brass	10.7420	11.2867	0.952
instr_trumpet	-1.9981	6.7761	-0.295
instr_sax	7.1134	10.8583	0.655
instr_piano	-6.6185	3.7598	-1.760
instr_keyboard	-13.9662	12.1866	-1.146
instr_violin	-9.1404	6.3561	-1.438
instr_other	-3.0457	3.2735	-0.930
automotive_advertiserindustry	4.2176	14.9880	0.281
education_advertiserindustry	-13.1669	15.8437	-0.831
$financial in surance_advert is erindustry$	6.0949	14.9260	0.408
government_advertiserindustry	18.7899	19.1518	0.981
healthcare_advertiserindustry	-8.1714	15.7379	-0.519
$other shipping_advert is erindustry$	31.4972	18.8105	1.674
retail_advertiserindustry	10.1430	15.0222	0.675

Table 12 Regression between enjoyment score and reason dimensions

	Estimate	Std. Error	t-value
(Intercept)	53.1572	9.2229	5.764
female_gender	-0.5245	1.8071	-0.290
both_gender	3.9243	2.4692	1.589
child_voiceage	0.7212	6.6876	0.108
old_voiceage	-7.5274	5.0988	-1.476
young_voiceage	-0.5191	1.7031	-0.305
aus_accent	-4.3820	4.0707	-1.076
brit_accent	25.0035	8.5487	2.925
other_accent	-22.4629	5.7089	-3.935
spanish_accent	4.2632	8.3703	0.509
yes_musicbed	4.0607	3.1000	1.310
ad_numberofvoices	-0.2455	0.6559	-0.374
yes_spanish	-24.8472	7.3107	-3.399
instr_drums	-0.2147	1.9304	-0.111
instr_guitar	0.2608	2.0787	0.174
instr_brass	-1.1984	6.9751	-0.172
instr_trumpet	-7.2036	4.2124	-1.710
instr_sax	15.9124	6.7526	2.356
instr_piano	0.6176	2.3349	0.265
instr_keyboard	-7.5987	7.5300	-1.009
instr_violin	5.7694	3.9528	1.463
instr_other	1.2013	2.0276	0.592
automotive_advertiserindustry	-11/0704	9.2799	-1.193
education_advertiserindustry	-8.3587	9.8141	-0.852
$financial in surance_advert is erindustry$	-10.1022	9.2438	-1.093
$government_advertiser industry$	-13.2438	11.9034	-1.113
healthcare_advertiserindustry	-8.2418	9.7487	-0.845
$other shipping_advert is erindustry$	2.8941	11.6594	0.248
retail_advertiserindustry	-3.1366	9.3000	-0.337

Table 13 Regression between purchase score and reason dimensions

	Estimate	Std. Error	t-value
(Intercept)	34.33043	12.57978	2.729
female_gender	1.39400	2.45962	0.567
both_gender	8.94864	3.36227	2.662
child_voiceage	6.85358	9.28207	0.738
old_voiceage	3.49146	6.98952	0.500
young_voiceage	-0.06737	2.32034	-0.029
aus_accent	11.15917	5.59029	1.996
brit_accent	8.97700	11.65950	0.770
other_accent	-3.40204	7.74865	-0.439
spanish_accent	6.26146	11.51181	0.533
yes_musicbed	6.76550	4.23155	1.599
ad_numberofvoices	-1.15505	0.87910	-1.314
yes_spanish	-18.90427	10.07395	-1.877
instr_drums	-2.61440	2.63179	-0.993
instr_guitar	0.61256	2.83806	0.216
instr_brass	5.50261	9.54599	0.576
instr_trumpet	-0.17173	5.73770	-0.030
instr_sax	17.06650	9.19496	1.856
instr_piano	-6.09610	3.18306	-1.915
instr_keyboard	-7.59757	10.30660	-0.737
instr_violin	-3.24212	5.37965	-0.603
instr_other	-1.54228	2.76979	-0.557
automotive_advertiserindustry	-0.13335	12.68018	-0.010
education_advertiserindustry	-13.04884	13.40555	-0.973
$financial in surance_advert is erindustry$	-0.92366	12.62840	-0.073
government_advertiserindustry	-1.82420	16.21530	-0.112
healthcare_advertiserindustry	-6.75663	13.31583	-0.507
othershipping_advertiserindustry	30.29767	15.91807	1.903
retail_advertiserindustry	11.12169	12.70878	0.875

Table 14 Regression between more info score and reason dimensions

	Estimate	Std. Error	t-value
(Intercept)	50.1456	12.1611	4.123
female_gender	1.5526	2.3806	0.652
both_gender	8.5718	3.2535	2.635
child_voiceage	10.0308	8.9022	1.127
old_voiceage	9.0087	6.7423	1.336
young_voiceage	0.5424	2.2447	0.242
aus_accent	4.7654	5.3880	0.884
brit_accent	10.8910	11.2737	0.966
other_accent	-18.4765	7.5095	-2.460
spanish_accent	10.6866	11.0877	0.964
yes_musicbed	8.1466	4.0900	1.992
ad_numberofvoices	-1.6957	0.8571	-1.978
yes_spanish	-22.2009	9.6942	-2.290
instr_drums	-4.1076	2.5453	-1.614
instr_guitar	-0.2318	2.7429	-0.085
instr_brass	4.8651	9.2152	0.528
instr_trumpet	-2.3209	5.5513	-0.418
instr_sax	14.4145	8.8974	1.620
instr_piano	-6.3720	3.0785	-2.070
instr_keyboard	-12.5381	9.9491	-1.260
instr_violin	-6.6545	5.2007	-1.280
instr_other	-2.3810	2.6762	-0.890
automotive_advertiserindustry	-13.0140	12.2503	-1.062
education_advertiserindustry	-23.5269	12.9531	-1.816
$financial in surance_advert is erindustry$	-11.9711	12.2014	-0.981
government_advertiserindustry	-24.8273	15.6879	-1.583
healthcare_advertiserindustry	-18.1207	12.8667	-1.408
othershipping_advertiserindustry	2.7682	15.3843	0.180
retail_advertiserindustry	-4.5121	12.2774	-0.368

Table 15 Regression between recommendation score and reason dimensions

	Estimate	Std. Error	t-value
(Intercept)	39.7132	9.6230	4.127
female_gender	1.0893	1.8854	0.578
both_gender	8.2214	2.5760	3.192
child_voiceage	-1.2130	6.9578	-0.174
old_voiceage	2.7020	5.3143	0.508
young_voiceage	-0.7229	1.7767	-0.407
aus_accent	-4.1368	4.2416	-0.975
brit_accent	0.6610	8.9164	0.074
other_accent	-8.8329	5.9585	-1.482
spanish_accent	4.9410	8.7199	0.567
yes_musicbed	6.5849	3.2330	2.037
ad_numberofvoices	-0.8871	0.6858	-1.293
yes_spanish	-21.8377	7.6139	-2.868
instr_drums	-4.0932	2.0136	-2.033
instr_guitar	-0.6132	2.1677	-0.283
instr_brass	-2.5514	7.2717	-0.351
instr_trumpet	-1.3820	4.3945	-0.314
instr_sax	18.5412	7.0449	2.632
instr_piano	-3.5974	2.4354	-1.477
instr_keyboard	-10.9945	7.8499	-1.401
instr_violin	-0.2495	4.1121	-0.061
instr_other	-0.3310	2.1143	-0.157
automotive_advertiserindustry	2.2735	9.6763	0.235
education_advertiserindustry	1.4313	10.2338	0.140
$financial in surance_advert is erindustry$	2.1356	9.6389	0.222
$government_advertiser industry$	11.2617	12.4174	0.907
healthcare_advertiserindustry	6.9578	10.1656	0.684
$other shipping_advert is erindustry$	25.5831	12.1592	2.104
retail_advertiserindustry	12.6560	9.6971	1.305

3.3 Crosstab Analysis

We did crosstab analysis between demographic statistics of respondents and recommendation score as well as purchase score, trying to find the influences of the demographic information on these scores. First we coded the demographic information: For gender of respondents, we coded female as 0, male as 1; For age of respondents, we coded age ranging from 20 to 30 as 0, age ranging from 31 to 40 as 1, age ranging from 41 to 50 as 2, age ranging from 51 to 60 as 3, age ranging from 61 to 70 as 4; For the race of respondents, we coded White / Caucasian as 0, Asian / Asian American as 1, Hispanic / Latino as 2,African American / Black as 3, Native American as 4, Southeast Asian / Indian as 5; For the marital status of respondents, we coded married as 1, single as 0. For the income of respondents, we coded annual income below equal to \$10,000 as 0, \$10,001 to \$25,000 as 1, \$25,001 to \$50,000 as 2, \$50,001 to \$75,000 as 3, \$75,001-\$100,000 as 4, income above \$100,000 as 5. Then we coded the recommendation score and purchase score respectively, with 4 categories ranging from 0 – 25 points, 26 – 50 points, 51 – 75 points, 76 – 100 points as 0,1,2 and 3.

We clustered four groups with similar recommendation score and purchase score by Kmeans clustering method using STATA.

Table 16 Cluster groups summarized by recommendation score

-> _clus_1 =1					
Variable	Obs	Mean	Std. Dev.	Min	Max
q6_recommend	671	40.19076	8.009098	26	50

-> _clus_1 =2					
Variable	Obs	Mean	Std. Dev.	Min	Max
q6_recommend	1,136	61.16637	7.948488	51	75
-> _clus_1 =3					
Variable	Obs	Mean	Std. Dev.	Min	Max
q6_recommend	631	88.26783	8.329688	76	100
-> _clus_1 =4					
Variable	Obs	Mean	Std. Dev.	Min	Max
q6_recommend	1,048	6.780534	8.398135	0	25

Table 17 Cluster groups summarized by purchase score

-> _clus_2 = 1					
Variable	Obs	Mean	Std. Dev.	Min	Max
q4_purchase	637	81.77865	9.795214	69	100
-> _clus_2 = 2					
Variable	Obs	Mean	Std. Dev.	Min	Max
q4_purchase	813	55.33333	6.882786	42	68
-> _clus_2 = 3					
Variable	Obs	Mean	Std. Dev.	Min	Max
q4_purchase	686	28.36443	7.611449	16	41

-> _clus_2 = 4					
Variable	Obs	Mean	Std. Dev.	Min	Max
q4_purchase	1,350	2.863704	4.446946	0	15

Based on the tabulation, we found some influences of respondents' demographics on recommendation score:

- 1) Female respondents are more likely to recommend the products to their friends than male.
- 2) Elder respondents are less likely to recommend the products to their friends than the younger respondents.
- 3) Native American and Southeast Asian / Indian respondents are less likely to recommend the products to their friends relative to other races.
- 4) Married respondents are slightly more likely to recommend the products to their friends than single respondents.
- 5) Respondents with income below or equal to 10000 are less likely to recommend the products to their friends.

The above are the summary points and details are interpreted as below.

Table 18 Tabulation between gender and cluster group (by recommendation score)

Subject_gender		Total			
	1	2	3	4	Total
Female	16.71	28.76	22.58	27.74	100.00

	39.05	45.51	56.10	41.51	44.98
Male	21.32	32.27	14.44	31.96	100.00
	60.95	54.49	43.90	58.49	55.02
	19.25	32.59	18.10	30.06	100.00
	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00

The tabulation above shows that in cluster group 3 with the highest mean recommendation score 88.26, 22.58% of female respondents are in the group while 14.44% of male respondents are in it. In cluster group 4 with lowest mean recommend score 6.79, 58.49% male respondents are in while 41.51% of female are in it. This indicates that female respondents are likely to recommend the products to their friends than male.

Table 19 Tabulation between age of respondents and cluster group (by recommendation score)

Subject_agecategory					
	1	2	3	4	Total
20~30	22.63	32.10	13.96	31.30	100.00
	42.03	35.21	27.58	37.21	35.74
31~40	18.94	33.00	17.55	30.51	100.00
	36.36	37.41	35.82	37.50	36.95

41~50	18.65	35.91	24.40	21.03	100.00
	14.01	15.93	19.49	10.11	14.46
51~60	12.50	31.79	26.43	29.29	100.00
	5.22	7.83	11.73	7.82	8.03
	9.52	24.40	20.24	45.83	100.00
	2.38	3.61	5.39	7.35	4.82
Total	19.25	32.59	18.10	30.06	100.00
	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00

The tabulation above shows that in cluster group 4 with the lowest mean recommendation score 6.79, 45.83% of respondents with age ranging from 61-70 are in the group, which is highest among other percentages with different age categories. This indicates that elder respondents are more likely not to recommend the products to their friends than the young.

Table 20 Tabulation between race of respondents and cluster group (by recommendation score)

Subject_racial					
	1	2	3	4	Total
White / Caucasian	18.81	33.02	18.16	30.01	100.00
	78.09	80.99	80.19	79.77	79.92

Asian / Asian	29.00	25.97	15.15	29.87	100.00
American	9.99	5.28	5.55	6.58	6.63
	19.05	34.20	18.61	28.14	100.00
Hispanic / Latino	6.56	6.95	6.81	6.20	6.63
African American /	14.29	35.96	20.69	29.06	100.00
Black	4.32	6.43	6.66	5.63	5.82
Native American	7.14	14.29	17.86	60.71	100.00
	0.30	0.35	0.79	1.62	0.80
Southeast Asian /	71.43	0.00	0.00	28.57	100.00
Indian	0.75	0.00	0.00	0.19	0.20
Total	19.25	32.59	18.10	30.06	100.00
	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00

The tabulation above showed that in cluster group 2 and 3 with high mean recommend score 61.17 and 88.27, no Southeast Asian / Indian respondents are in these group, while only 32.15% of Native American are in these groups. This indicates that Native American and Southeast Asian / Indian respondents are less likely to recommend the products to their friends relative to other races.

Table 21 Tabulation between gender of respondents and cluster group (by recommendation score)

Subject_marriage		Total			
	1	2	3	4	Total
Single	20.15	30.27	16.70	32.88	100.00
	63.49	56.34	55.94	66.32	60.64
Married	17.86	36.15	20.26	25.73	100.00
	36.51	43.66	44.06	33.68	39.36
Total	19.25	32.59	18.10	30.06	100.00
	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00

The tabulation above shows that in cluster group 2 and 3 with high mean recommend score 61.17 and 88.27, 56.41% of married respondents are in the two groups, while 46.97% of single respondents are in these groups. This indicates that married respondents are slightly more likely to recommend the products to their friends than single.

Table 22 Tabulation between income of respondents and cluster group (by recommend score)

		_clu	ıs_1		
Subject_incomesalary	1	2	3	4	Total
#10.000	13.53	19.55	13.53	53.38	100.00
<= \$10,000	2.68	2.29	2.85	6.77	3.82

440.004.407.000	20.29	30.68	17.37	31.66	100.00
\$10,001~\$25,000	18.63	16.64	16.96	18.61	17.67
¢25 001 ¢50 000	20.11	32.24	16.92	30.73	100.00
\$25,001~\$50,000	37.56	35.56	33.60	36.74	35.94
¢50,001, ¢75,000	19.60	37.80	20.23	22.38	100.00
\$50,001~\$75,000	23.10	26.32	25.36	16.89	22.69
\$75,001, \$100,000	13.33	34.76	19.05	32.86	100.00
\$75,001~\$100,000	8.35	12.85	12.68	13.17	12.05
\$100,000	23.81	26.37	19.78	30.04	100.00
>\$100,000	9.69	6.34	8.56	7.82	7.83
Total	19.25	32.59	18.10	30.06	100.00
10141	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00

The tabulation above shows that in cluster group 4 with lowest mean recommend score 6.79, 53.38% of respondents with income below or equal to \$10,000 are in the group, which is highest among other percentages with different income categories. This indicates that respondents with income below or equal to \$10,000 show strong preference not to recommend the products to their friends.

Likewise, we found some influences of respondents' demographics on purchase score:

- 1) Native American respondents and Southeast Asian / Indian respondents have lower likelihood of purchase intentions.
 - 2) Married respondents are slightly more likely to purchase the products than single respondents.
 - 3) Respondents with income below or equal to \$10,000 are less likely to purchase the products.

Table 23 Tabulation between race of respondents and cluster group (by purchase score)

		T 1			
Subject_racial	1	2	3	4	Total
	18.27	23.01	19.45	39.27	100.00
White / Caucasian	79.91	78.84	79.01	81.04	79.92
Asian / Asian	14.29	27.71	24.24	33.77	100.00
American	5.18	7.87	8.16	5.78	6.63
· / · / ·	22.51	22.94	21.21	33.33	100.00
Hispanic / Latino	8.16	6.52	7.14	5.70	6.63
African American /	19.21	25.12	15.27	40.39	100.00
Black	6.12	6.27	4.52	6.07	5.82
Native American	14.29	14.29	17.86	53.57	100.00
nauve American	0.63	0.49	0.73	1.11	0.80

Southeast Asian /	0.00	0.00	42.86	57.14	100.00
Indian	0.00	0.00	0.44	0.30	0.20
m . 1	18.27	23.32	19.68	38.73	100.00
Total	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00

The tabulation above shows that in cluster groups 1 and 2 with high mean purchase score 81.78 and 55.33, 0% of Native American respondents are in the two groups, while only 29.58% of Southeast Asian / Indian respondents are in the groups. This indicates that Native American respondents and Southeast Asian / Indian respondents have lower likelihood of purchase intentions.

Table 24 Tabulation between marital status of respondents and cluster group (by purchase score)

Subject_marriage		Total			
	1	2	3	4	Total
Single	15.70	20.72	20.81	42.76	100.00
	52.12	53.87	64.14	66.96	60.64
Married	22.23	27.33	17.93	32.51	100.00
	47.88	46.13	35.86	33.04	39.36
Total	18.27	23.32	19.68	38.73	100.00
	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00

The tabulation above showed that in cluster group 1 and 2 with high mean purchase score 81.78 and 55.33, 49.66% of married respondents are in the two groups, while 36.42% of single respondents are in the groups. This indicates that married respondents show slightly more likely to purchase the products than single.

Table 25 Tabulation between income of respondents and cluster group (by purchase score)

		T . 1			
Subject_incomesalary	1	2	3	4	Total
440.000	7.52	11.28	15.79	65.41	100.00
<= \$10,000	1.57	1.85	3.06	6.44	3.82
\$10,001~\$25,000	15.26	20.78	18.83	45.13	100.00
	14.76	15.74	16.91	20.59	17.67
#25 001 #50 000	17.24	24.42s	19.79	38.55	100.00
\$25,001~\$50,000	33.91	37.64	36.15	35.78	35.94
¢50,001, ¢75,000	24.65	27.43	19.97	27.94	100.00
\$50,001~\$75,000	30.61	26.69	23.03	16.37	22.69
\$75,001, \$100,000	17.62	22.62	18.57	41.19	100.00
\$75,001~\$100,000	11.62	11.69	11.37	12.81	12.05

×\$100,000	17.58	19.05	23.81	39.56	100.00
>\$100,000	7.54	6.40	9.48	8.00	7.83
T . 1	18.21	23.32	19.68	38.73	100.00
Total	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00

The tabulation above showed that in cluster group 4 with lowest mean recommend score 2.86, 65.41% of respondents with income below or equal to \$10,000 are in the group, which is highest among other percentages with different income categories. This indicates that respondents with income below or equal to \$10,000 are less likely to purchase the products..

CHAPTER 4

DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSION

What is the DNA of a successful audio ad? What features of an audio advertisement can contribute to its quality and popularity? These are the ultimate questions this research seeks to answer. By doing descriptive analysis and crosstab analysis, we're now able to answer the questions below.

- 1) What are the likely reasons that make audiences enjoy the ads:
- Pop, Blue and ambient music, music of drums, piano or guitar, dialogues, storytelling, conversations, gentle and upbeat tone, or with tone up, familiarity, British accents.
- 2) What are the likely reasons that make audiences not enjoy the ads:

Talking too fast, rock music, aggressive voices, salesman tone, irrelevant products.

- 3) What kind of people are more likely to recommend products to others after listening to the ads: Female respondents, Married respondents. On contrary, the elder, Native American, Southeast Asian / Indian and respondents with income below or equal to 10000 are less likely to recommend.
- 4) What kind of people are more likely to purchase products after listening to the ads:

Married respondents. On contrary, Native American, Southeast Asian / Indian respondents and respondents with income below or equal to \$10,000 are less likely to purchase.

Another major approach we took was collecting answers from a survey from almost 500 people. That's how we obtained the valuable data to answer more questions. The following are the highlights of what are the most important audio attributes:

Instead of using only male or female voices, the combination of both voices was received better. If there is chance to use a voice of children or the elderly, do use them. This would give audio advertisement a sense of freshness and lightness. However, it is still important to control the number of narrators. Do not include too many speakers, which would make the ad crowded and less clear. American and British accents are appreciated and British accent could add to the enjoyment of the ads. Other accents need to be avoided because they might not work well in comparison to the American and British accents.

If you struggle with whether to incorporate music background or not, this would be a no brainer – music helps. Music greatly elevates the enjoyment of an ad. When it comes to music genre, pop music and ambient music were strongly preferred among our participants. We did not study the exact mechanism of why these genres were preferred, but our results seem to suggest that they improve the enjoyment of ads. Also, Saxophone was perceived as a great instrument that could raise brand awareness.

This research is for the purpose of producing better audio advertisements. Both manufacturers of the ads and the ad producers need this level of information to help them understand the minds of listeners so as to better suit their preferences. Incorporating the suggestions above would likely to improve the quality of ads and thus lead to more purchases, which is the ultimate goal of ads.

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APPENDIX

SURVEY QUESTIONAIRE

Instructions:

Purpose: To investigate the characteristics of various TV advertisements. Time required: Approximately 10 minutes. Procedures: Your participation in this study is voluntary and you can withdraw at any time. You must be 18 years old to participate in this study. Participation will involve listening to audio advertisements. You will receive \$2.00 - upon completion of the study - for participating. Risk to participants: Minimal. Your survey responses are anonymous. Benefit to Participants: No direct benefits, but participants will have contributed to the advancement of scientific knowledge. Contact for questions about the research: Geoffrey Fisher (gwf25@cornell.edu) Contact for questions about rights as a research participant: Cornell University Institutional Review Board for Human Participants (irbhp@cornell.edu).

You may also report your concerns or complaints anonymously through Ethicspoint online at www.hotline.cornell.edu or by calling toll free at 1-866-293-3077. Ethicspoint is an independent organization that serves as a liaison between the University and the person bringing the complaint to that anonymity can be ensured. Completing and returning this survey constitutes your consent for your survey responses to be used in this research project.

In this survey, we will ask you to listen to 7 different audio ads and then answer several questions about each. You must ensure you have the ability to listen to audio through your computer, either through headphones or a computer speaker.

Each ad will first automatically play for you. After listening to the ad, you will be allowed to continue to a question page where you will answer a variety of questions about the ad. You will also have the option to replay each ad at that time.

To begin, click the button below.

Test Question:

- 1. Please play the audio clip and answer the question below:
 - o Play/Pause
- 2. Which type of fruit was in the audio?
 - Blackberries
 - Bananas
 - Oranges
 - Apples
 - Strawberries

Audio Ad 1 ~ Audio Ad 7:

Question 1 to 8 are the same for each ad, Question 9 for all ads, Question 10 to 15 are demographic questions.

- 1. Please enter one to two words to indicate the topic of the advertisement (i.e., what is being sold):
- 2. Does the topic of the advertisement cover a field or product that is **relevant** for you? (Very irrelevant ~ Very relevant)
- 3. How much did you **enjoy** listening to the advertisement? (As little as possible ~As much as possible)
- 4. How likely would you be to **purchase** the product in the advertisement?(Very unlikely ~ Very likely)
- 5. How interested would you be in obtaining **more information** about the product? (Very uninterested ~Very interested)
- 6. How likely would you be to **recommend** this product or service to a friend? (Very unlikely ~ Very likely)
- 7. Please indicate by clicking on the relevant items below (more than one is allowed) why you LIKED this ad. Also feel free to add an open ended answer in the category other:
 - Clarity of the underlying message
 - Clarity of the sound
 - Trustworthiness of the narrator
 - Entertaining advertisement
 - Familiar brand
 - Music/soundtrack or sound effects
 - OTHER:
 - None
- 8. Please indicate by clicking on the relevant items below (more than one is allowed) why you DISLIKED this ad. Also feel free to add an open ended answer in the category other:
 - Lack of clarity of the underlying message
 - Lack of clarity of the sound
 - Lack of trustworthiness of the narrator
 - Lack of entertaining advertisement
 - Lack of familiar brand
 - Music/soundtrack or sound effects
 - OTHER:
 - None

9.In the space provided below, please recall as many ads as possible in their order of memorability (list the most memorable first). Additionally, please note whether the ad was memorable because you enjoyed it or because you disliked it and elaborate on the aspects that made the ad memorable.

• Note: you must list at least 3 ads in order to continue.

	Description		Opinior	1	Why is this
	of the ad				ad
					memorable?
	Response	Liked	Neutral	Disliked	Response
Ad #1 (most					
memorable)					
Ad #2					
Ad #3					
Ad #4					
Ad #5					
Ad #6					
Ad #7					

10.	What	is	your	gender?
			2	0

- Male
- Female
- 11. What is your age (in years)?
- 12. Which ethnic group do you belong to?
 - White / Caucasian
 - Asian / Asian American
 - African American / Black
 - Hispanic / Latino
 - Southeast Asian / Indian
 - Native American
 - Pacific Islander
 - Other

										1 .	\circ
П	3	Αr	· 9	VO	11	m	ar	r1	0	1	7

- Yes
- No

1 /	XX71- 04 :0		la avva a la a l d		
14.	w nat is	your annual	nousenoia	income?	

15. What is your 5-digit zip code?

Thank you for completing our survey.

Your response has been recorded.