

Definitions of some basic ISA concepts

Entities in ISA: *facets of self, others, institutions, agencies, emblems and icons*

Entity is an abstract term used to refer to any feature of self and the social world that may be the subject of discourses between people in the social world. The agentic self (Self 1) may describe and reference self (Self 2) in different contexts (such as, childhood, with one or another person or group, when engaged with specific events) and mood states (such as, frightened, depressed, on top of the world), and the public characterisation of self (Self 3), these all being features of self – for convenience, 'self-entities'. Other 'entities' will include those people and agencies that are of significance to the person. Just as the qualitative aspects of bipolar constructs are always explicit in ISA, so is this the case for 'entities'.

One's **ego-involvement** with another is defined as *one's overall responsiveness to the other in terms of the extensiveness both in quantity and strength of the attributes one construes the other as possessing.*

[Parameter range*: 0.00 to 5.00, that is, from zero ego-involvement to the maximum for the set of entities]

One's **evaluation** of another is defined as *one's overall assessment of the other in terms of the positive and negative evaluative connotations of the attributes one construes in that other, in accordance with one's value system.*

[Parameter range*: –1.00 to +1.00, that is, from a wholly negative evaluation to a wholly positive evaluation]

With respect to facets or aspects of self, including self in various contexts or mood states:

One's **ego-involvement** with self is defined as *one's overall responsiveness to the facet of self in terms of the extensiveness both in quantity and strength of the attributes one construes oneself as possessing.*

One's **self-evaluation** is defined as *one's overall assessment of self in terms of the positive and negative evaluative connotations of the attributes one construes in oneself, in accordance with one's value system.*

A person's **ambivalence** towards an entity when evaluated on balance in positive terms is defined as *the ratio of negative to positive attributions*, and conversely when negatively evaluated as *the ratio of positive to negative attributions.*

[Parameter range*: 0.00 to 1.00, from no ambivalence to total]

Entity **dissonance** takes into account the overall significance of the entity in question for the individual, that is, one's ego-involvement with the entity.

[Parameter range*: 0.00 to 5.00, from no dissonance to the maximum possible]

The extent of **splitting** in a person's construal of two entities is defined as *the ratio of the deficiency in actual overlap possible between their attributed characteristics to the total possible overlap, given the set of constructs one uses to construe them both*. [Parameter range*: 0.00 to 1.00, from no split in construal to total split]

Parameters of identification

The extent of one's **idealistic-identification** with another is defined as *the similarity between the qualities one attributes to the other and those one would like to possess as part of one's ideal self-image*.

[Parameter range*: 0.00 to 1.00, that is, from no idealistic-identification with another to the maximum]

The extent of one's **contra-identification** with another is defined as *the similarity between the qualities one attributes to the other and those from which one would wish to dissociate*.

[Parameter range*: 0.00 to 1.00, that is, from no contra-identification with another to the maximum]

The extent of one's current **empathetic identification** with another is defined as *the degree of similarity between the qualities one attributes to the other, whether 'good' or 'bad', and those of one's current self-image*.

[Parameter range*: 0.00 to 1.00, that is, from no empathetic-identification with another to the maximum]

In terms of one's current self-image the extent of one's **identification conflict** with another is defined as *a multiplicative function of one's current empathetic identification and contra-identification with that other*

[Parameter range*: 0.00 to 1.00, that is, from no identification conflict with another to the maximum]

The degree of one's **identity diffusion** is defined as *the overall dispersion and magnitude of one's identification conflicts with others*

[Parameter range*: 0.00 to 1.00, that is, from no identity diffusion to the maximum theoretically possible]

Bipolar constructs in ISA: discourses, non-verbal gestures and imagery

In ISA the notion of the **bipolar construct** is elaborated beyond the set of personal constructs that constitute verbal or textual discourses so as to include non-verbal modes of expression and communication, such as gestures, imageries, stances, non-verbal sounds, and any other non-verbal signs that communicate meanings and emotions between people. ISA also recognises that ostensibly similar constructs may convey across individuals quite different evaluative connotations. What constitutes a positive emotional tone for one person may be a negative one for another person. The qualitative aspects of these discourses and non-verbal expressions always remain explicit in assessments and interpretations within the ISA conceptual framework.

The manner by which one uses bipolar constructs in reference to one's aspirational self provides the evidence for the favoured or disfavoured connotation associated with

a particular construct. Evaluative connotations with which the individual imbues bipolar constructs are 'anchored' in the person's aspirational self, those associated positively with 'me as I would like to be' being the favoured connotations, and the contrasts being disfavoured, that is, the **polarity** of a bipolar construct is thereby designated.

Polarity will generally have a value of -1 or 1 indicating a favouring of the construct's left-hand pole or right-hand pole respectively. A zero polarity designates a construct that is not used to evaluate the social world.

The **structural pressure** on a person's construct is defined as *the overall strength of the excess of compatibilities over incompatibilities between the evaluative connotations of attributions one makes to each entity by way of the one construct and one's overall evaluation of each entity.*

[Parameter range*: -100 to +100, that is, from a theoretical condition of entire incompatibilities to a condition of total compatibilities in relation to each construct of a set included in an identity instrument]

The **emotional significance** of a construct used by one during appraisal of one's social world is defined as *the strength of affect associated with the expression of the construct.*

[Parameter range*: 0.00 to 10.00, that is, from zero emotional significance to the maximum across the set of constructs]

* These ISA parameters are standardised for each individual independently, such that the scales are put to scale-ranges that differentiate different kinds of parameters;

Evaluation: -1.00 to +1.00

Ego-involvement: 0.00 to 5.00

Ambivalence: 0.00 to 1.00

Entity dissonance: 0.00 to 5.00

Identification: 0.00 to 1.00

Structural Pressure: -100 to +100

Emotional significance: 0.00 to 10.00