

Christian Social Group

iat 333 (d101) | interview and overall analysis

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Our main purpose of deploying cultural probe packages to our social group was to investigate each participant's life outside of church, and their other related church meetings. We made the assumption that our participants and social group attend church to socialize, and learn more about their religion, with other people that share similar interests, beliefs and values. However, we would like to further analyze and investigate the day-to-day lives of 4 individuals in the social group, outside of the church.

Inside the box, we included:

- 5 pieces of Tin Foil
- Disposable Cameras + sign captions to put inside the photo composition to tell us what they could possibly be taking a picture of
- An affirmation, "Speak to Me" bottle, along with a notepad & pencil
- A magnet which included a positive outlook quotes or words on it
- The Box, which said, "Decorate Me" inside of it

During our post interview process, when recollecting the packages from our 4 individual users, Jung-Won, Ruby, Daniel and Mikaella, we found that some basic assumptions and uses we made for some of the items, were clearly articulated by the users, but we were also surprised to see how different some items were also used. We discovered group findings, and also personal findings, for specific users, based on their own personal life.

The group findings that were revealed during the post interview questions, and discussion, were that the users felt they needed an incentive of some sort, to motivate them about the box, or serve as a reminder. They also agreed that time was a major constraint, and that within the 5 duration they had the probe packages, they felt they got fairly distracted by their personal daily schedules, thus making them forget about the box or not put enough effort into some of the items.

However, as a group of 4, they each admitted they kept their magnets, which were originally in their packages. Mikaella mentioned that she had enjoyed the quote it had on it, motivating her to put it somewhere in her house. Similarly, they all felt comfortable physically taking it out of the box, and placing the magnet in their personal environment.

Just as we discovered how the magnet was a common item each individual utilized in his or her home, each individual also utilized the "Speak to Me" affirmation bottle, though we found that each bottle had a different overall themes.

In Daniel's affirmation bottle we found he wrote music lyrics, affirmations about family values and also names of places and destinations.

Mikaella wrote about moving on, decision-making and overcoming obstacles. We also found that Mikaella used an exact quote from the magnet found in her box, which sparked motivation for how she could use the bottle.

In Ruby's bottle, her affirmations were quotes about having an organized life, seeking perfection in life and also seeking achievement. When we asked the group "Did the cultural probe package inspire you in a positive or negative way throughout the 5 day duration?" Ruby responded with "I had an urge to clean my room when I saw the box". As we read Ruby's affirmations, we found a theme of how to live an

organized life, which is similar to how she was inspired by the box, or how the box served a reminder/motivation for her to do something.

Jung Won had a different response to the question and answered with “Whatever changed during the 5 days inspired me of what I did with the box or in the box”. What was also intriguing about Jung Won’s affirmation bottle was that she was the only participant to not put any affirmations inside her bottle. Instead, when recollecting her probe package, we found that her bottle was full of tin foil bits, shaped in squares, and there was a cloth inside. When we deployed the packages to the users, we gave them each guidance notes, for them to refer to during their 5 days with the package, incase they forgot what items were in the box or what the project is for. The guidance notes were wrapped in a coloured cloth, to give it a more interesting visual appeal. When we opened Jung Won’s bottle, we found the same cloth, with one written message in it saying, “To Write is to Think”.

Just as found Jung Won’s response to the affirmation “Speak to Me” bottle interesting, we also found her as an individual user to present personal contradictions, yet also display personal creativity.

When we asked, “What item did you enjoy using the most?” during the interview, Jung Won responded with “The bottle.” She then explained how in the past she used to do a similar activity of collecting quotes she heard, which she liked, and she would write down and date them. Unfortunately, she said she grew out of the hobby, and threw all the quotes away. As we were analyzing results from the recollection of the packages, we found that it was quite ironic how Jung Won used to do a very similar personal activity in the past, yet had no motivation to do it again with the “Speak to Me” bottle.

Jung Won also displayed personal creativity. One example is she visually rejected the message of “Decorate Me” on the box, by writing “No!” in red felt. This was a contrast to the two others who did not decorate their box, and to another, which was decorated. We felt we could create characteristics of Jung Won’s identity, just by the way she used the affirmation bottle and also they way she responded to the labeling on the box.

We also discovered a group contradiction as well. We asked the question “Are there any extra comments about how you feel about the experience with our cultural probe package?” most of them responded with “Make it more creative”. When we were outlining our items to put into the box, we were hoping the most creative item in the box was Tin Foil. We really wanted to see what they would do with Tin Foil in 5 days, whether it be creating an object, or using it for decoration on their box. However, only 2 participants were able to utilize the Tin Foil by making a 3d object, and using it to put into their affirmation bottle. When we asked the question “What was the least enjoyable item in the package”, they all said the Tin Foil was.

By studying each of the individual’s packages after recollecting them, we were able to identify 3 major themes: living an organized life/surrounding, having a new beginning/new chapter in life, and also being able to preserve identity. We came up with the question of “How would you display your identity through these items in 5 days?” and which allowed for our analysis of the boxes after the recollection to answer. By observing a documented video which was recording the

post interview, and analyzing the packages, we were able to unveil characteristics about each of our participants, have a better understanding of their individuality and identity, and how they are truly unique and original in their own way, but yet fit into a tight knit social group at a church.