

WORKAHOLIC IN FRANCE RESEARCH: A STUDY ON CROSS-CULTURAL UNDERSTANDING

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ABSTRACT

This article focuses on French workaholic especially in the Paris area. The objective is to determine whether French people are workaholics, whether workaholics are good in the world of work, and to find out how to overcome workaholics. The research used is descriptive qualitative. The research is centered on the tourism industry in France. The results of research on workaholics show that France is one of the countries where workaholics are prevalent. The region commonly associated with workaholic tendencies is Paris. In Paris, workers dedicate long hours to their jobs, earning them the label of workaholics. A hard worker is someone who consistently works, regardless of place and time. However, being a workaholic is not conducive to good work. They work excessively and often disregard their social lives. The approach to dealing with workaholics varies from person to person. The interviewee mentioned she chose not to work in Paris because she knew that working in Paris was very hard and tiring. Conversely, some individuals actively choose to be hard workers, deriving satisfaction from their excessive workload despite its drawbacks.

Keywords: Workaholic, cross cultural understanding, France

1. INTRODUCTION

Definition of Oates (1971) of work holism as “the compulsion or the uncontrollable need to work incessantly” includes two features that return in later definitions of work holism: (i) working excessively hard; and (ii) the existence of a strong, compulsive, inner drive. The former points to the fact that workaholics tend to allocate an exceptional amount of time to work and that they work beyond what is reasonably expected to meet organizational or economic requirements. The latter recognizes that workaholics persistently and frequently think about work, even when not working, suggesting that workaholics are “obsessed” with their work. In our view, workaholics work harder than their job prescriptions require and they invest much more effort in their jobs than is

expected by the people with whom or for whom they work, and in doing so they neglect their life outside their job.

The idea that work can be addictive and may have adverse consequences for employee well-being and his or her social environment is not new. For example, on 24 April 1852, the French novelist Gustave Flaubert (1821–1880) writes in a letter to his mistress Louise Colet that “I love my work with a frenetic and perverted love” (cited in Unwin, 2004, p. 10). Working was tremendously important for Flaubert, evidently at the cost of his relationships with other people – he never married or led anything like a normal family life.

Many scholars agree with Oates’ (1971) view that work holism is bad because it is an addiction that is similar to alcoholism (e.g., Cherrington, 1980; Killinger, 2006; Robinson, 1989). As Porter (1996) put it, “Whereas an alcoholic neglects other aspect of life for the indulgence in alcohol, the workaholic behaves the same for excessive indulgence in work” (pp. 70–71). Conversely, others view work holism as a state with positive consequences for both workaholics and the organizations they work for (Korn, Pratt, & Lambrou, 1987; Machlowitz, 1980; Peiperl & Jones, 2001). Cantarow (1979) considers the workaholic personality as positive, because its hallmark is the joy of creativity; according to her, workaholics seek passionate involvement and gratification through their work. Similarly, Peiperl and Jones (2001) consider workaholics to be “hard workers who enjoy and get a lot out of their work” (p. 388).

Work is an activity carried out with a form of awareness by people to get results that are in line with expectations. Coombs, who states that “you must be a workaholic to survive in the world of work” (2004, p. 28). Workaholic individuals who are excessive in work are not considered as people who have problems in work problems. However, workaholics or people who are addicted to work tend to think that what is done is considered a hobby or activity that must be done. People who are workaholic should be made an example because they are active in working.

The purpose of this research is to find out whether France is a workaholic country, to find out whether workaholics are good or not at work, and to find out how to overcome workaholics.

2. METHODS

This study uses a qualitative method, by analyzing the corpus to describe the connotative meaning in the lyrics of BTS *Permission to Dance*. The analysis includes a breakdown which contains an overall explanation of the lyrics in detail. From the analysis the writer tries to conclude the connotative meaning of each lyric. In this study data was collected using library techniques where written sources were used to obtain data. Data be obtained with qualitative approach because the data is in the form of song lyrics with several steps: a. Researchers collect data by downloading songs and their lyrics. b. The researchers listens to the song to find the connotative meaning of the lyrics of the song. c. The writer takes words that use the connotative meaning of the lyrics of the song. d. The collected data has been analyzed, explained and ended with a theory of connotations.

Data were analyzed using a qualitative descriptive method. Analyzing phenomena and analyzing the use of words, including finding the connotative meaning contained in the lyrics. The lyrics were observed and the words read were then analyzed using relevant concepts and theoretical frameworks. Then the data is registered first and analyzed. The data has been analyzed by understanding the lyrics that contain connotative meaning in the lyrics of the song.

3. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

A. Research Result

The transcript of the interview with the informant is provided below.

Date : 17th June 2023

Time : 19.30 Wita

Interview Place : Losari Beach

Interview Topic : Knowing workaholic in France

Interview Material	
Researcher	Good night, my name is Rabiah. Thank you so much for you want to be interview. So, what's your name?
Informant	I'm Eva.
Researcher	Where do you come from?
Informant	I come from France.
Researcher	What's your profession?
Informant	Now in Indonesia I work as a volunteer in universities. It's like the mission I have is just to share about France culture and also the France language and also English with the students.
Researcher	Do you enjoy your job?
Informant	Yeah.
Researcher	Do you spent your time just working?
Informant	No, I don't work that much here.
Researcher	Is your country a workaholic country?
Informant	Maybe a little bit. It depends on the region. That's mostly in Paris.
Researcher	Do you think workaholic is good at work?
Informant	No, I don't think so. Peoples are working too many hours.
Researcher	In your opinion, how do you overcome workaholic?
Informant	I think it depends on people also, like they actually choose to have this life. So for example, I don't want to go to work in Paris because I know that it's too much work. So yeah, but it's if that's what they want.
Researcher	Yeah, I think that's all my questions. Thank you so much for your help.
Informant	You're welcome

B. Discussion

Based on the interviews that have been conducted, France is one of the countries whose workers are workaholics. The area known as the area where the worker is a workaholic is Paris. In Paris, workers do their jobs for long hours so they are called workaholics. A workaholic works continuously regardless of place and time. Therefore, a workaholic is not good at work. They just overwork all the time and don't really care about social life.

The way to deal with workaholics is different for everyone. For example, the interviewee said that she chose not to work in Paris because she knew that working in Paris was very hard and tiring. There are also some people who choose to be a workaholic because they like doing work even though the work is excessive.

4. CONCLUSION

From the explanation above, it can be concluded that a person's tendency to work is an activity that is carried out with full awareness. Individuals who are workaholics love a job even if it is excessive. France is a country that is classified as a workaholic. The area known as one of the workaholics is Paris. In Paris, people often spend hours just doing their work. The background of work holism is due to certain demands such as economic demands, one's love for work and so on. Being a workaholic can have a bad impact when we cannot control ourselves in carrying out activities. Therefore, an individual must be able to balance the activities carried out. The love of the world of work makes us unable to accept certain mistakes made in the work that makes us become workaholic towards something because it is the main focus.

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