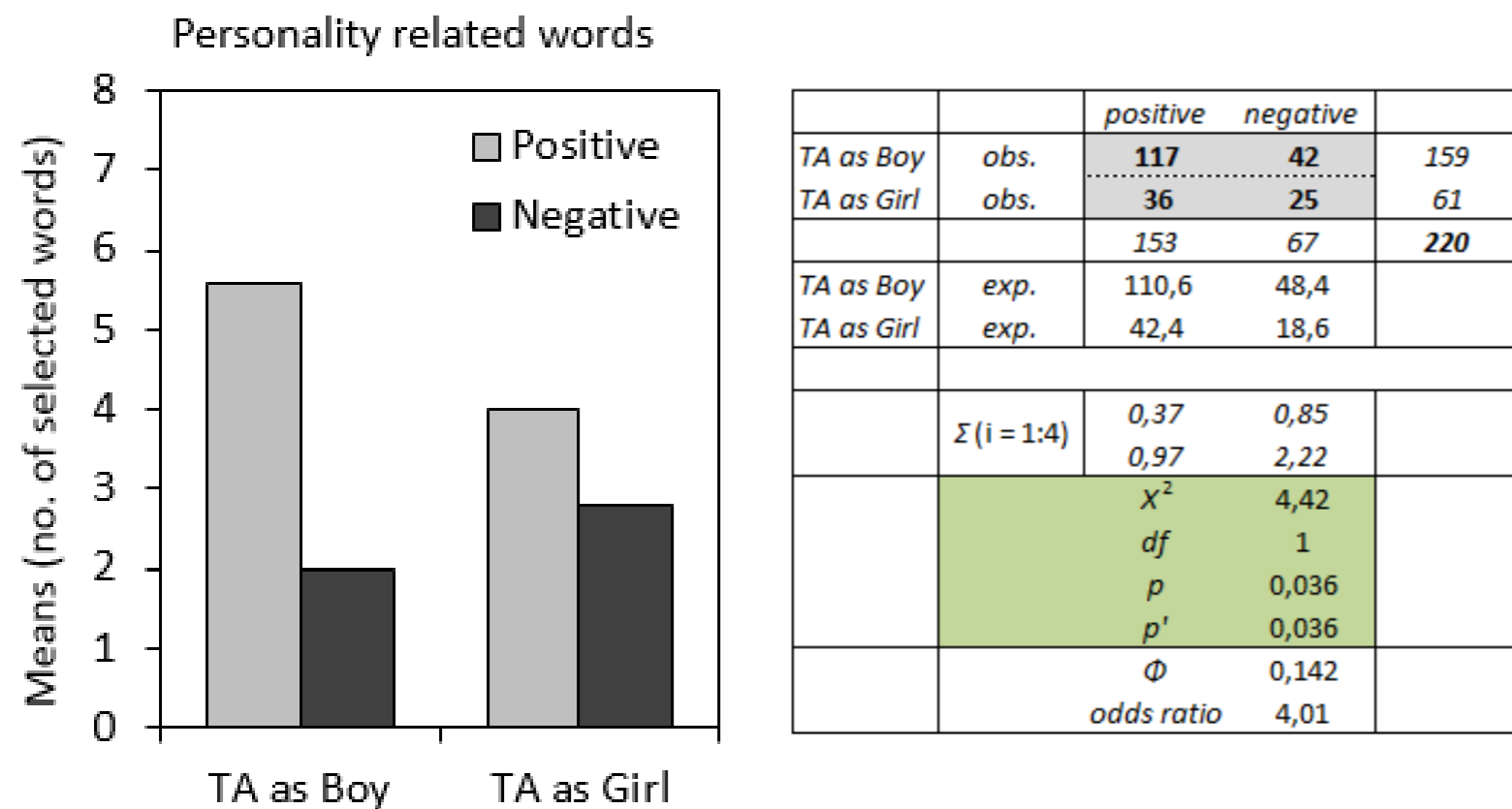


Results

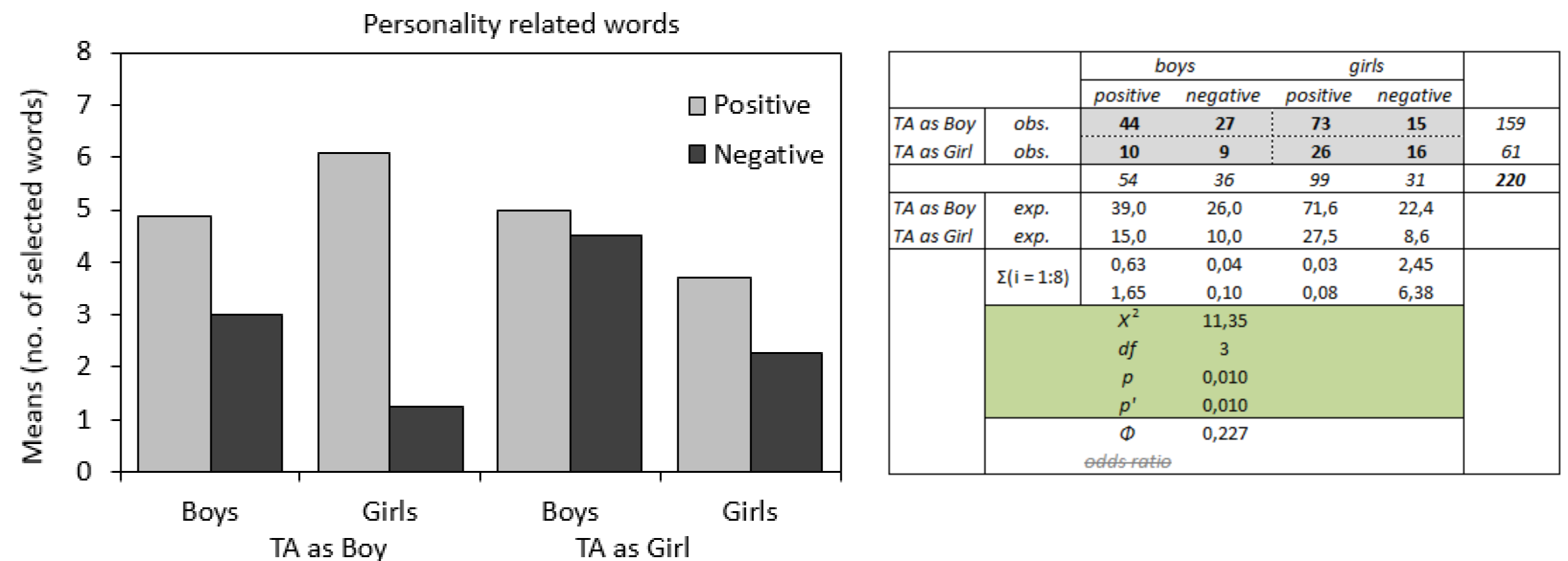
- The participants were allocated into two main groups: the group where the TA was perceived as “absolutely like a girl” or “a little like a girl” ($N = 9$) and the group that perceived the TA as “absolutely like a boy” or “a little like a boy” ($N = 21$).
- In the entire group, 69% (153 of 220) of the characteristics ascribed to the TAs were positive.



- A Chi-square test indicated a significant difference between the characteristics given to the TA perceived as a boy compared to when it was perceived as a girl ($\chi^2(1,220) = 4.42$, $p < .05$).
- The TA perceived as a boy received a mean of 5.6 positive words and a mean of 2.0 negative words.
- The TA perceived as a girl received a mean of 4.0 positive words and a mean of 2.8 negative words.

Conclusions

- Previous studies have shown that an agent’s appearance can influence how it is perceived and that female agents typically are subjected to more negative descriptions and abuse.
- In this pilot study we found the same pattern, namely that the TA that was perceived as a girl received fewer positive words and more negative words than the same TA when it was perceived as a boy.
- Girls gave more positive words and fewer negative words to the TA when perceived as a boy, and boys gave more negative words to the TA when perceived as a girl.



- A Chi-square test showed that there was a significant difference between the distribution of positive and negative words with regard to ascribed gender of the TA in combination with the gender of the students ($\chi^2(1,220) = 11.3$, $p < .01$).
- The TA perceived as a boy received a mean of 6.1 positive words and 1.3 negative words from girls, while it received a mean of 4.9 positive and 3.0 negative words from the boys.
- For the agent perceived as a girl the corresponding numbers were a mean of 3.7 positive words and a mean of 2.3 negative words from the girls, and a mean of 5.0 positive words and a mean of 4.5 negative words from the boys.

References

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