



On the astrological polarity in extravert and introvert groups

By Kyösti Tarvainen, PhD

Abstract

Based upon psychological literature which presents certain professions as more suited for extraverts vs. introverts, we expected to find an excess of extraversion in these professional groups from the data collections of Michel and Francoise Gauquelin: actors, pioneer aviators, journalists, liberation fighters, musicians, politicians, and sport champions ($N = 7,482$); and an excess of introversion in scientists, medical doctors, painters, and writers ($N = 6,470$ person). In astrology, the classification of polarity (masculine/feminine) is related to extraversion/introversion: the positive (masculine) signs Aries, Gemini, Leo, Libra, Sagittarius, and Aquarius have extravert qualities. Thus, the following research hypothesis arose: the total number of placements of Sun, Moon, Mercury, Venus, Mars, Jupiter, Saturn, Uranus, Neptune, Pluto, Ascendant and Midheaven in the positive astrological signs would be relatively higher in the extravert groups than in the introvert groups. This turned out to be true in a statistically significant way ($p = .02$ with an excess of 0.5%). The most powerful single astrological factor was the Ascendant ($p = .02$, excess 1.6%). For those with the Sun, Moon and Ascendant in the same polarity, the p -value decreased to .003 and the excess increased to 3.9%. As a byproduct, strong evidence was obtained for the validity of the tropical zodiac.

Motivation for the study

The correlation of extraversion scores from personality tests with astrological factors has been researched in over forty studies (for a review, see the dissertation of Burke, 2012). Different psychological tests and astrological factors have been considered in, for example, the dissertation of Gaynor (1981). The results have been mixed, but, on the whole, a statistically significant correlation has been observed. For example, the meta-analysis in the dissertation of Startup (1984: 255) yielded a statistically significant combined p -value of .0001 for thirteen studies.

But Michael Startup and many others have seen self-attribution as an explanation for the positive results. That is, the knowledge of one's own astrological factors may so affect self-image that the person will then answer the questions of a personality test in a direction that gives confirmation to astrology.