“Valid”

TOP DEFINITION

Valid

Something that you, the person reading this, is

You're valid as f sweetheart <3

by Trash•Gordon November 04, 2019

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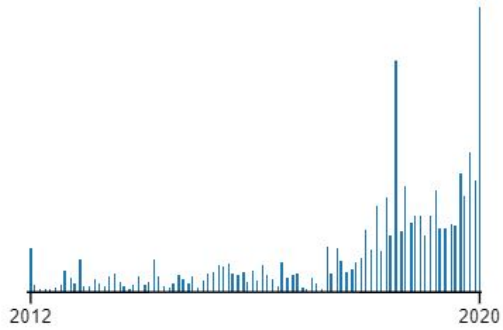


“Valid”

\ ˈva-ləd \

1: having legal efficacy or force

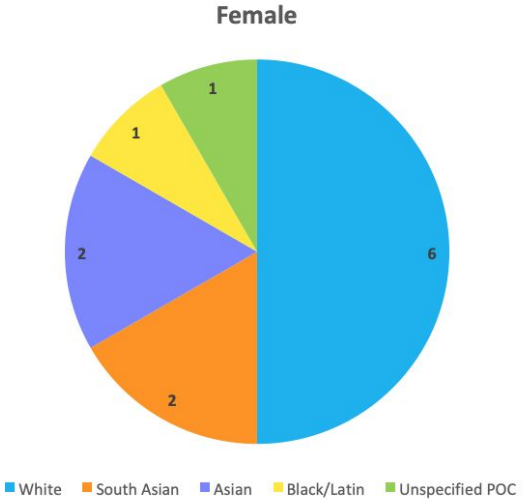
2 a: well-grounded or justifiable : being at once relevant and meaningful a *valid* theory

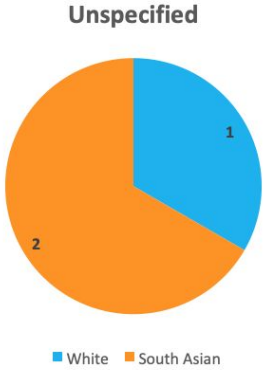
b: logically correct a *valid* argument; *valid* inference

3 : appropriate to the end in view : EFFECTIVE every craft has its own *valid* methods

4 *of a taxon* : conforming to accepted principles of sound biological classification

Geography & Demographics





9 students are from BMC, 6 from HC, and 1 from Swarthmore. 4 are specified as international students. 1 goes to school in Washington but only uses “that’s valid” to mock Aradia. All started using the phrase in college 1-4 years ago, except 1 student who started at Haverford High School 2-3 years ago.

Indexes: young liberal woman

- Most interviewees were introduced to the word during college (bi-co)
  - Some suggestion of wider liberal arts association
- Used more by and to women
- “Bi-co culture of validation” (J)
  - More emotional, to validate others
  - A mechanism to fight feelings of invalidation

Observed Tokens

Types of Tokens

1.	“Valid”	“Invalid”
2.	“That’s valid”	“That’s fair”
3.	“You’re valid”	“She’s valid”
4.	“You’re SO valid”	“That’s SO valid of you”

Multifunctional validation

1. Conflict → mitigation and marking understanding of conflict
2. Seeking/giving validation for atypical behavior
3. Agreement
4. Ironic/comedic

- Often marks end of a discussion
- Interjection

Conflict

→ mitigation and marking understanding of conflict

a. Seeking reassurance from conflict

Examples:

“you had a busy week, you’re valid”

“I am nervous for this quiz, I been too busy to study”

“Oh, that’s valid”

“God this homework is so hard and I’m so dumb”

“Listen you’re VALID”

Seeking/giving validation

To see the worth in a situation...

Example:
“How invalid of me would it be to go back and shower after class then go to lunch?”
“I think that’s valid”

Agreement

Can be used as a form of an agreement

Example:
Me: You have no idea how much tea we have in our house
D: no yeah you’re valid

Ironic/Comedic

Depending on the situation and/or context, it can be used in a informal/joking sense

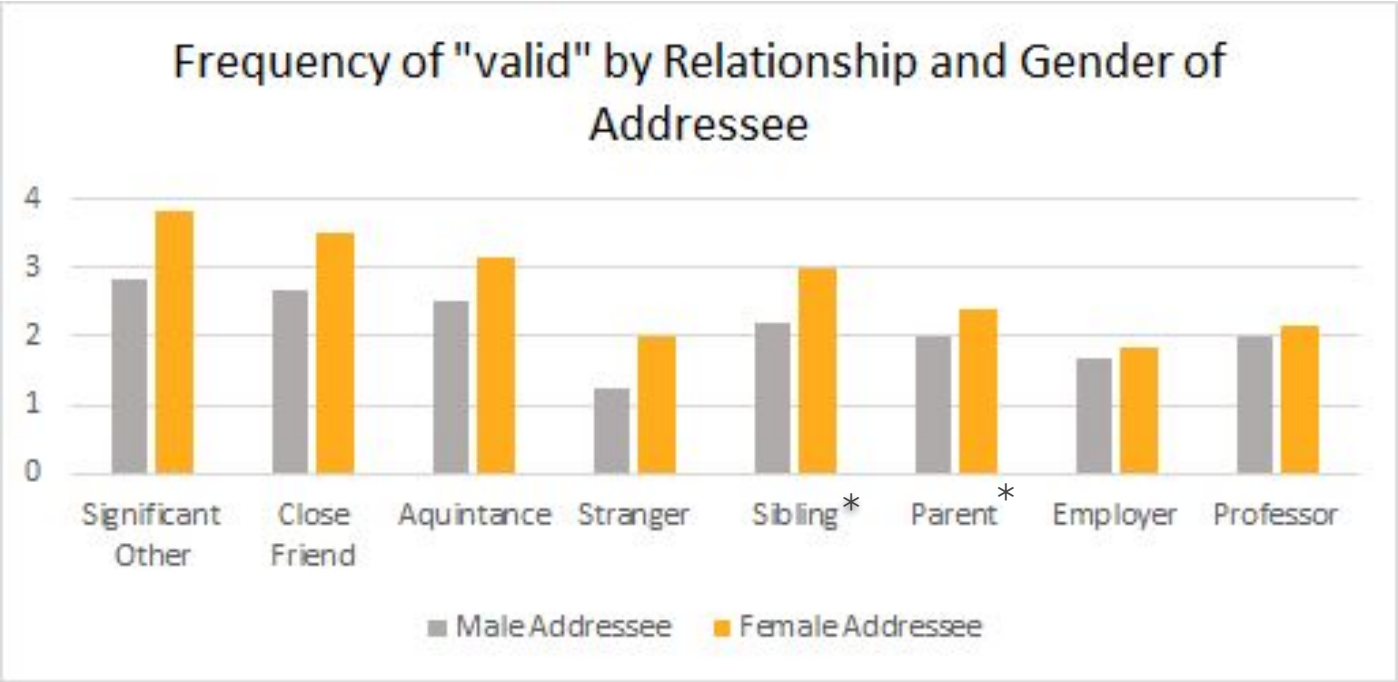
Examples:
J: that's valid—*you're* valid, [C]. [jokingly, with a hug]
C: thank you for validating me

"She's here and she's valid"

Interviews

Who we interviewed

- 2 Bryn Mawr, 2 Haverford, 1 Swarthmore, and 1 Western Washington University student
- 50% female
- 2 White, 1 Black/Latinx, 1 Brazilian, 1 Chinese, 1 Kenyan
- 3 freshman, 1 sophomore, 2 seniors



* n=5, all others n=6

"Professor": this rating (MA=2 and FA=2.167) may be positively biased due to Bryn Mawr/Haverford Prof/student relationships

- Gendered (Speaker & Addressee)
- Formal/Informal Contexts

Why do you use the term?

To validate personal feelings, says you're a good listener and you care (S)

To agree or disagree with someone (J)

To comfort someone ironically ("you're valid"); purposefully exaggerated, "although I mean it, there's a comic aspect to it" - J

To make fun of people who use it. (JPC)

What kind of person do you think uses this frequently?

“probably somebody with a sort of liberal arts kinda vibe, if that makes sense? I can't imagine somebody who doesn't value the liberal arts to really understand what it means. I kinda use to validate other people’s identity and that’s more of liberal arts thing.” - E

More educated people (K)

Female college students, like people who are likely to get emotional more easily. (JPC)

Ironic/Comedic - Mocking

"I use it exclusively to make fun of the way you [Aradia] speak[s], which is very feminine and focused on making the other person comfortable. I think it's mostly used by female college students."
-JPC

Ironic/Comedic - Mocking

Aradia: Can you give me an example?

JPC: Sometimes when I think you're being too nice to someone it's like "but they're valid and are going through stuff even if they're being mean to me, I don't want to hurt their feelings!"

Aradia: Hey, I don't sound like that!

JPC: [snorts]

Conclusions

Link to Reading - Kiesling “Dude” Study

- Impossible to “translate” to a single function
- Highly contextual and used unconsciously
- Can be used in ways that are contradictory to other functions
  - Interjection (like in Siegal)
  - Semantically complex expressions of solidarity
- Indexes a certain “ingroup” identity, characteristic of a “type”
- Used by outgroup to mock ingroup
- Storytelling, hedging
- Femininity (Valid) vs. Masculinity (Dude)

Function & Speaker

- ‘Normalize’ other’s behaviors
- End conversation without being dismissive
- Empathize with addressee
- Shared indexical understanding
  - All of the above can be subverted through ironic usage

Function & Addressee

- Behaviors/Ideas validated
- Relationship marked as informal
- Shared indexical understanding
- Identity marking

Bibliography

"Valid." *Merriam-Webster*, Merriam-Webster, www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/valid.

"Valid." *Urban Dictionary*, 4 Nov. 2019, www.urbandictionary.com/define.php?term=Valid.