

# Theory of Self-Repetition: A Brief Dive into the Reasons Behind People's Repeating Ourselves Regarding the Implicitly Known

[submission page]

(*Abstract*, submitted) Sometimes we over-examine ourselves. Today's discourse styles have, seemingly, "framed" us into a **constraint of self-repetitions** in either virtual or traditional in-person dialogues. Much of this was induced by our **dissolving attention span and patience**, and yet there is something else that invaded into our discourse and became part of the hindrance to effective speech. This short article presents a tentative "theory" of why we are repeating and telling ourselves things with certainty, mostly in words, that we already knew implicitly and were already able to conceptualize in other forms of meaning-making. Such misplaced, pseudo-necessity can be surprisingly costly in contexts like collegiate classrooms. Beyond, the same question for individuals, what about at the group level for the general public? The author further concludes that this self-repetitive, sometimes toxic pattern is part of what he calls the "common knowledge predicament" in that all of us suffer more or less from the lack of understanding, or even misunderstood conventions, among a supposedly mutually-respected population who are, counterintuitively, subject to the illiteracy epidemic.



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The background of the entire image is a vibrant, stylized tropical leaf pattern. It features various shades of teal, blue, and green, interspersed with bright pink and orange-red leaves. The leaves are depicted in a flat, graphic style, creating a dense and colorful foliage effect.

I I C A H

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H A W A I I

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## Rhythmic Repetition, Parallel Motion (cont.) – Fate Motif in Beethoven’s the Fifth

It is “not treated as simply a first theme” but rather repeated throughout the entire piece, an “obsessive repetition of the motif at different pitch levels, combined with interruptive stops that fight its restless momentum” (Lewanski, Beethoven and the Romantic Sublime).

Allegro con brio.

*ff* Re-vo-lu-tion *p*

Red. \*

11

*cresc.*

Red. \*



## Intuitive Scenarios for Repetition: Emergency Announcements



*This is an emergency.  
I repeat, this is an emergency.*

When necessary, and when it is really necessary and effective, an announcer would repeat the same set of information/phrases twice and more than three times, usually with “I repeat” or the alike, to get the audience as much informed (and as many people in the audience) as they can.

Character [Jenna Bydwell](#) in the scene | Emmerich, R. (Director). (2013). *White House Down* [Film]. Columbia Pictures et al.

## Example One: “Implicit” Self-Repetition—When What We Hear Sounds “Too Familiar”

News ▾



## New graduate students welcomed to Princeton’s community of scholars: ‘What you do here matters’

Retrieved from <https://www.princeton.edu/news/2024/09/06/new-graduate-students-welcomed-princetons-community-scholars-what-you-do-here>



## Psychological Incentives: Repeating for Sanity-Checks (Time Passed, History Gone, etc.)

- Time (as a commodity, and of physics)
- Memory w/ dependence on time
- **Sanity checks** – which are needed when one wants to “revisit the past” where words/verbal language encoded something previously, which drew the attention/incentives for one who has such need/desire
- History, as also a kind of memory dependent on time

He wanted nothing less of Daisy than that she should go to Tom and say: “I never loved you.” After she had obliterated four years with that sentence they could decide upon the more practical measures to be taken. One of them was that, after she was free, they were to go back to Louisville and be married from her house—just as if it were five years ago.

“And she doesn’t understand,” he said. “She used to be able to understand. We’d sit for hours—”

He broke off and began to walk up and down a desolate path of fruit rinds and discarded favours and crushed flowers.

“I wouldn’t ask too much of her,” I ventured. “You can’t repeat the past.”

“Can’t repeat the past?” he cried incredulously. “Why of course you can!”

He looked around him wildly, as if the past were lurking here in the shadow of his house, just out of reach of his hand.

“I’m going to fix everything just the way it was before,” he said, nodding determinedly. “She’ll see.”

He talked a lot about the past, and I gathered that he wanted to recover something, some idea of himself perhaps, that had gone into loving Daisy. His life had been confused and disordered since then, but if he could once return to a certain starting place and go over it all slowly, he could find out what that thing was...

## Notifying the Unwilling-to-Believes

Jim: We're being ambushed, Ethan. Abort. That's an order.

Ethan: Negative. Golitsyn is on the move.

Jim: No, damn it! No! I said **abort!**

Ethan: Sarah, eye on the package. Jim, I'm coming to you.

Sarah: Jim gave an abort. We should walk away.

Ethan: No. We are going to recover that disk. You understand me?

... Now, go.

Where are you?

About 200 yards from the bridge.

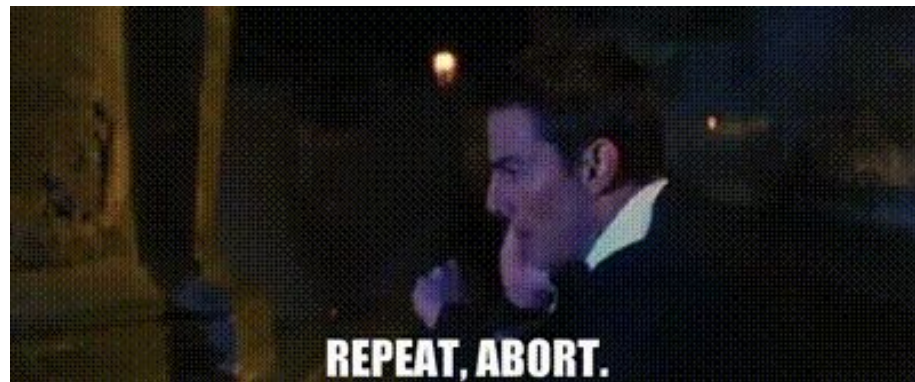
They're covering this frequency.

Jim: Cut all radio communication.

Repeat. Cut all radio communication. Ethan! Ethan...

Ethan: Sarah, **abort.**

Repeat, **abort. Abort!**





## Teasing



McGee earned the nickname “Tragic Bronson” from analyst Shaquille O’Neal over boneheaded plays and bizarre mistakes.

Henderson, C. (May 2, 2022). JaVale McGee getting last laugh after 'Shaqtin' A Fool' damaged reputation. A fourth title could be next. *USA Today*.

<https://www.usatoday.com/story/sports/nba/suns/2022/05/02/javale-mcgee-last-laugh-shaqtin-fool-suns/7372973001>

## Interruption

NICHOLS: You have to answer the question, Mr. Adler.

FRANK: A drunk idiot attacked me and I defended myself. What does that have to do with anything?

HIGHSMITH: Did you spend the night in jail?

FRANK: Yeah.

HIGHSMITH: You are in way over your head here. You're depriving that girl. You're gambling with her future... and now you're being presented with an opportunity... to do right by her. Jump at it.

CULLEN: Does counsel have a question for my client?

HIGHSMITH: Take the high road, Mr. Adler... before she is irreparably damaged.

CULLEN: Does counsel have a question... for my client or not?

HIGHSMITH: Yes, sir. I do have the question. Tell us, is your continued guardianship... really in the best interest of this little girl?

FRANK: Yes. Yes, it is.

HIGHSMITH: I have no further questions.

## In Summary

The once-relative scarcity in oral expressions in the past,

← compared to →

the verbosity (and also abundance in access) of media access nowadays

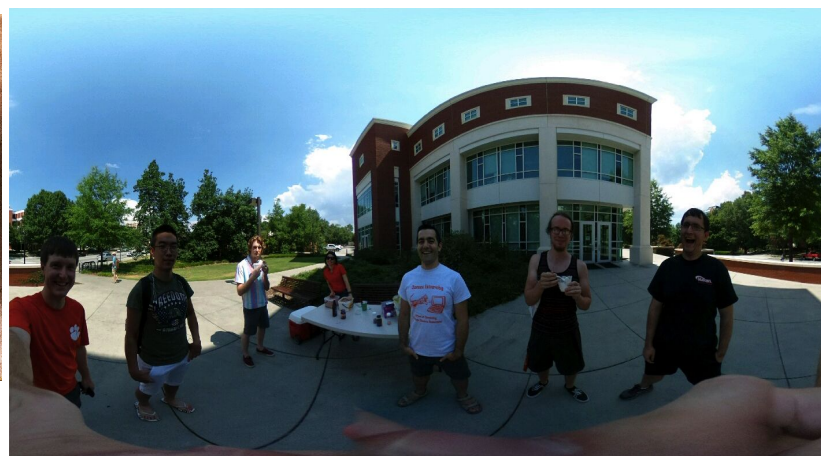
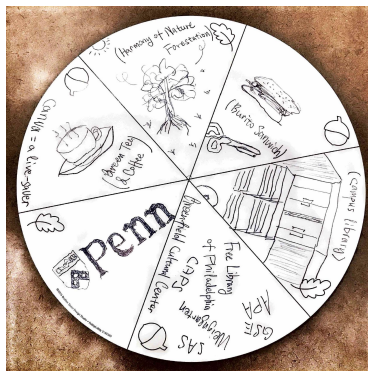
- Why am/was I repeating/telling myself, in words, certain things I already 'knew' implicitly and could conceptualize in other forms of meaning-making?
- Same question for other individuals, and for the society as a general public—is this some kind of so-called “common knowledge predicament”

Normal/positive example: working/talking with kids – we ‘repeat ourselves all the time’ – “let’s go to the park”

- with a high degree of thematic inclusiveness, I thought the topic might meet the conference's criteria for acceptance of manuscripts. The authors have explored the reasons why people self-repeat for things that are implicitly known. However, it is **unclear what the origins of self-repeating theory (or the research question)** are, what **academic context** the research question is grounded in, and how it relates to established fields of study. I think it would make the research question more valuable if the connection could be articulated in terms of an **orthodox academic context (which might involve a reformulation of the research topic)**. In addition, the methodology of the study is unclear and I hope that further clarification will make the conclusions more credible. Best of Luck.
- “tentative theory” needs to be well supported by strong references.



# About Me (Currently of M.A. in Mathematics Program at Yeshiva)



mathematical analysis (e.g., metric spaces), multi-variate calculus (vector and tensor fields), and political philosophy/jurisprudence projects

**Fall 2023-Now: Mathematics**

Reading/Writing “Literacy Education” at the University of Pennsylvania (2021-22)

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