# Elaboration Likelihood Model

(Petty, Cacioppo, 1986)

### **Elaboration Likelihood Model**

- Elaboration the extent to which individual thinks about arguments contained in the communication
- Likelihood the probability that an event will occur



The model tells us when people are likely to elaborate, or not elaborate, on message

## Elaboration Likelihood Model

- 2 distinct ways (routes) people process communication
  - The CENTRAL ROUTE is characterized by cognitive elaboration. Individual carefully evaluates arguments, considers implications of the communicator's ideas, and relate information to their own knowledge and values.
  - The PERIPHERAL ROUTE is very different. People examine message quickly and focus on simple cues. Key factors are physical appeal, speaking style, music, etc. People rely on mental shortcuts.



Argument evaluation ⇒ detailed thinker

Heuristics
(physical appeal, speaking style, music, etc)

⇒ cognitive miser

#### **CENTRAL ROUTE**

The central route involves message elaboration, defined as the extent to which a person carefully thinks about issue-relevant arguments contained in a persuasive communication

# PERIPHERAL ROUTE











### High elaboration ad (central route)

DO YOU KNOW THAT MOST BEANS YOU CALL "BAKED BEANS" AREN'T BAKED? . THEY'RE STEAMED OR BOILED!

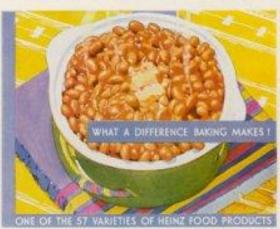
#### HEINZ BEANS ARE BAKED

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haled - ask for Heige Over-Heled Beyon.



AND YORK

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LABEL SAYS "BAKED" THEY AREN'T

Carlot the Para Florit Law, under from that really are helial our be-RALL WHEN !

# Low elaboration ad (peripheral route)



## High elaboration ad (central route)



# Low elaboration ad (peripheral route)



# What determines what route we use?

Central route

Peripheral route



#### **MOTIVATION & ABILITY**

#### **MOTIVATION**

#### Involvement

 Personally relevant issues are more likely to be processed on the central route; issues with little relevance take the peripheral route (High I - Central, Low I - Peripheral)

#### Need for cognition

- Personality characteristic a need to understand the world and to employ thinking to accomplish this goal
- Certain individuals have a need for cognitive clarity, regardless of the issue; these people will work through many of the ideas and arguments they hear.

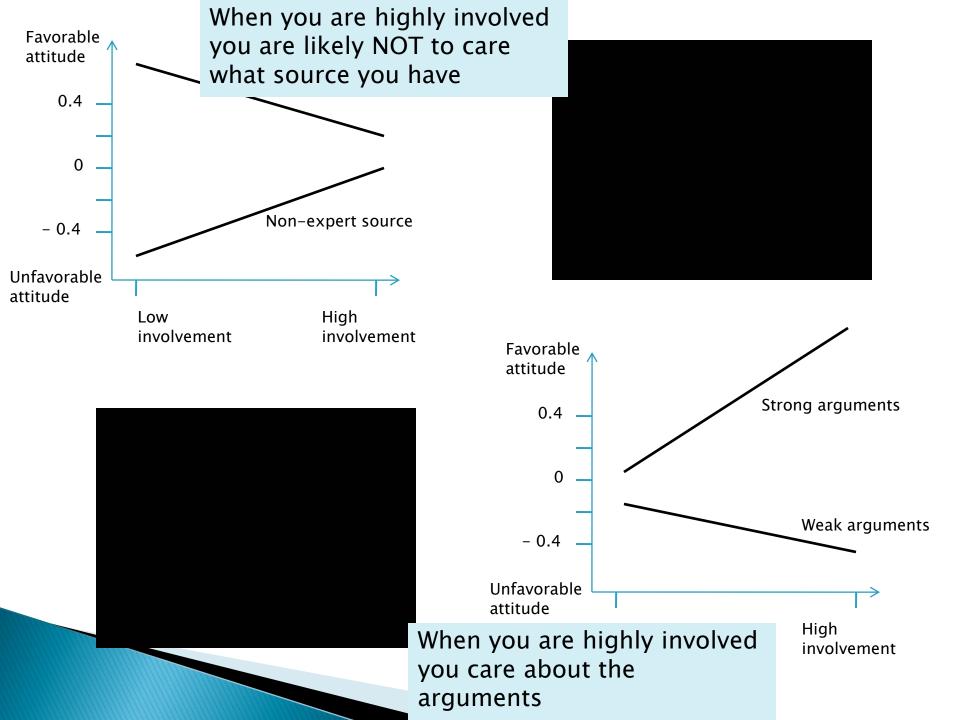
#### Involvement

- People given the same information can process it differently.
  - When personal relevance was <u>high</u>, people evaluated the merits of the presented information.
  - When personal relevance was <u>low</u>, people counted the number of arguments presented and made a simple inference: "more is better"

#### "Comprehensive final exam" experiment

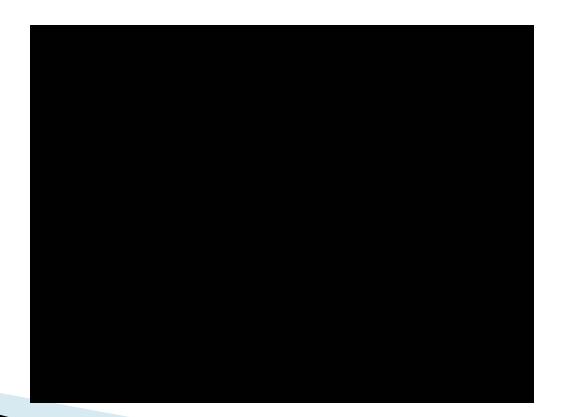
Personally relevant vs. irrelevant issue

Variables:
Speaker's expertise
Arguments strength



### **ABILITY**

- Distractions (disrupt elaboration)
- Knowledge



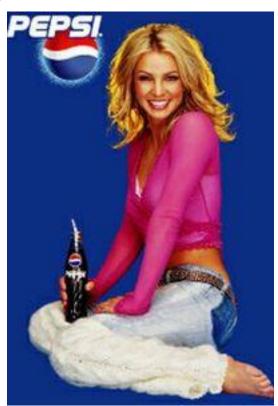
# Central processing and arguments strength

- Thoughtful consideration of <u>strong arguments</u> will produce positive shifts in attitude
  - The change is persistent over time
  - It resists counter-persuasion.
  - It predicts future behavior.
- Thoughtful consideration of <u>weak arguments</u> can lead to negative boomerang effects
- Mixed or neutral messages won't change attitudes and in fact reinforce original attitudes.

# Peripheral route

- Speaker's credibility
- Celebrity endorsers
- But...short-lived attitude change







#### Elaboration continuum

Low personal relevance	High personal relevance
High distraction	Low distraction
Low accountability	High accountability
Low repetition	High repetition
Low knowledge	High knowledge
Low need for cognition	High need for cognition

# Consequences

- Stability of the attitude
- Resistance to counter-persuasion
- Attitude-behavior consistency

Central route to persuasion	Peripheral route to persuasion
Long-lived	Short-lived
Hard to change	Easy to change
Attitude more consistent with behavior	Attitude less consistent with behavior

## Practical applications

- If listeners are motivated and able to elaborate a message, you should rely on factual arguments
- If listeners are unable or unwilling to elaborate a message, you should rely on packaging rather than content

WHAT ARE FUTURE TRENDS???

#### Future trends

- More peripheral processing
- Focus on emotions

Dostupnost vice než týden

The role of credibility, mental shortcuts, etc...



Amazon Prime

Amazon Bestsellers

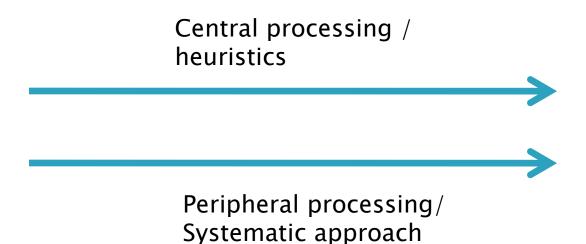
See more recommendations

# Parallel processing

Heuristic-systematic model (HSM)

(Chaiken, Liberman, & Eagly, 1989)

It adds to ELM that <u>parallel</u> processing is possible



## Celebrity endorsers + arguments



http://www.youtube.com/watch ?v=jjXyqcxmYY&feature=PlayList&p=D94F 4A0FBC23F0F5&index=0&playn ext=1

http://www.youtube.com/watch ?v=ghSJsEVf0pU&feature=relate d



# Inoculation theory (McGuire, 1961)

Resistance to persuasion can be induced by exposing individuals to a small dose of arguments against particular idea, coupled with appropriate criticism of these arguments









#### Forewarning

 Individuals generate a large number of counterarguments, strengthening their opposition to the advocated position

# One-sided or two-sided arguments?



Two-sided is better...

...but never use it when you are not able to refuse it!