

Count-based text analysis of the events descriptions.

The texts were preprocessed as follows: First, all punctuation was removed, and all upper-case letters were transformed to lower-case letters. Second, the stopwords ("german") of the tm-package [1] as well as other functions words ("beim", "bzw.", "daraus", "konnte", "mal", "obwohl", "wurde") were excluded. Finally, words used in the instruction which the participants took up in their event descriptions ("ereignis", "situation", "konsequenz", "konsequenzen"; see S1 File) were also excluded.

The words most frequently used to describe the events are depicted in Table A. These words refer to personal relationships, especially with significant others (*friend, mother, father, sister, together*), critical life events (especially *death* and related words such as *end, time, and life*), and the arts (*film, book, and music*). In the own-life events group, the most frequently used words referred to close relationships and critical life events. In the media-represented real events group, the most frequently used words refer to persons of close personal relationship, including next of kin (parents, father, mother, son, daughter, sister) and friends, or referred to the Fukushima disaster. We note that the Fukushima disaster was heavily covered in the media at the time of the data acquisition; this is also likely to explain the large number of entries for “Japan” and “Tsunami.” In the fictional events group, the most frequently used words referred to the arts as well as relationships and critical life events.

1. Feinerer I, Hornik K. tm: Text Mining Package. 2013. Available: <http://CRAN.R-project.org/package=tm>

Table A Frequencies of the words used in the events descriptions.

| Text | English | N |
|-------------|-------------------|----------|
| film | film | 30 |
| leben | live/ life | 26 |
| mehr | more | 25 |
| freundin | friend (fem.) | 22 |
| mutter | mother | 20 |
| freund | friend (masc.) | 19 |
| japan | Japan | 19 |
| menschen | people | 15 |
| vater | father | 15 |
| buch | book | 13 |
| erdbeben | earthquake | 13 |
| kind | child | 13 |
| schwester | sister | 13 |
| tod | death | 13 |
| zusammen | together | 13 |
| zeit | time | 12 |
| gesehen | seen | 11 |
| ende | end | 10 |
| gab | gave | 10 |
| kam | came | 10 |
| mann | man | 10 |
| tsunami | tsunami | 10 |
| eltern | parents | 9 |
| gelesen | read (past part.) | 9 |
| sohn | son | 9 |
| berührt | touched | 8 |
| kinder | children | 8 |
| letzten | last | 8 |
| tochter | daughter | 8 |
| weinen | cry | 8 |

Table continued

| Text | English | N |
|-------------|------------------|----------|
| beziehung | relationship | 7 |
| handelt | handles | 7 |
| hund | dog | 7 |
| kontakt | contact | 7 |
| musik | music | 7 |
| tag | day | 7 |
| wochen | weeks | 7 |
| dabei | although/near by | 6 |
| deutschland | Germany | 6 |
| eigentlich | actually | 6 |
| frau | woman | 6 |
| geburt | birth | 6 |
| gefremt | happy | 6 |
| immer | always | 6 |
| jahr | year | 6 |
| jedoch | however | 6 |
| mädchen | girl | 6 |
| person | person | 6 |
| personen | people | 6 |
| rührend | touching | 6 |
| schon | already | 6 |
| sehen | see | 6 |
| seit | since | 6 |
| steht | stands | 6 |
| trennung | separation | 6 |
| verändert | changed | 6 |
| viele | many | 6 |
| welt | world | 6 |