CITY UNIVERSITY OF HONG KONG

香港城市大學

When Are Surprise Discounts More Effective? The Moderating Role of Consumption Goals

驚喜折扣何時更有效?消費目標的調節效應

Submitted to College of Business 商學院

in Partial Fulfillment of the Requirements for the Degree of Doctor of Business Administration 工商管理博士學位

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May 2025 二零二五年五月

摘要

令人驚喜的促銷活動已經成為現代市場行銷中的一種流行策略,其核心 目標是通過激發消費者的積極情感反應來達到更好的行銷效果。然而,目前 的學術研究中對意外促銷如何喚起消費者驚喜的潛力仍然探索不足,尤其是 在折扣促銷領域。為填補這一研究空白,本研究基於注意能力理論和資訊處 理理論,深入探討了驚喜折扣在消費者情感和行為反應中的作用機制。

本研究內容包含四項系統性研究:首先,在研究 la 和 lb 中,我們通過實驗驗證了意外折扣是否能夠有效激發消費者的驚喜情感,並進一步增強購買意願。結果表明,當消費者感受到折扣帶來的意外性和驚喜時,他們的購買意願顯著提升。接下來,研究 2 進一步探討了意外折扣影響購買意願的內在機制。研究發現,這種促進作用的出現主要歸因於驚喜增強了消費者對折扣的關注。具體而言,消費者在感受到意外折扣帶來的驚喜後,傾向于更加專注於折扣本身的吸引力,從而促使他們對促銷活動的認知和情感評價更加正面,最終顯著提升了購買意願。在研究 3 中,我們進一步探索了消費者購買目標在驚喜折扣效應中的調節作用。結果顯示,當消費者消費目標偏向享樂型時,意外折扣引發的驚喜對其購買意願的促進作用更為顯著。而對於以功利型消費為目標的消費者,這種積極影響則有所減弱。

本研究區分了驚喜與意外折扣的概念,突出了消費者情感體驗在促銷設計中的核心地位,闡明了消費目標的調節作用,為相關文獻和未來研究提供了啟發。實踐上,研究建議企業通過融入"驚喜性"提升促銷效果。整體而言,研究揭示了驚喜折扣的情感機制、認知過程和行為後果,為消費者行為研究及促銷策略提供了新視角和實踐指導。

關鍵字: 意外折扣;驚喜;消費目標;消費者關注;購買意向

Abstract

Surprising sales promotion has become a popular strategy in modern marketing, and its core goal is to promote better marketing effect by stimulating consumers' positive emotional response. However, the potential of surprise promotion to arouse consumers' surprise is still not explored in current academic research, especially in the field of discount promotion. In order to fill this research gap, based on the theory of attention ability and information processing, this study deeply discusses the mechanism of unexpected discount in consumers' emotional and behavioral responses.

This study includes four systematic studies: First, in studies 1a and 1b, we verified through experiments whether unexpected discounts can effectively stimulate consumers' surprise feelings and further enhance their purchase intention. The results show that when consumers feel the surprise and surprise brought by the discount, their purchase intention is significantly improved. Next, study 2 further discusses the internal mechanism of unexpected discount affecting purchase intention. It is found that this promotion is mainly due to the fact that surprises have enhanced consumers' attention to discounts. Specifically, after feeling the surprise brought by unexpected discounts, consumers tend to pay more attention to the attractiveness of the discounts themselves, thus promoting their cognition and emotional evaluation of promotional activities to be more positive, and ultimately significantly improving their purchase intention. In study 3, we further explored the moderating effect of consumers' purchasing goals on the unexpected discount effect. The results show that when the consumer's consumption goal is biased towards pleasure, the surprise caused by unexpected discount has a more significant role in promoting his purchase intention. For consumers who aim at utilitarian consumption, this positive influence is weakened.

This study distinguishes the concepts of surprise and unexpected discount, highlights the core position of consumers' emotional experience in promotion design, clarifies the regulatory role of consumption goals, and provides inspiration for related literature and future research. In practice, the research suggests that enterprises can improve the promotion effect by incorporating "surprise". On the whole, the study reveals the emotional mechanism, cognitive process and behavioral consequences of surprise discount, which provides a new perspective

and practical guidance for consumer behavior research and promotion strategies.

Keywords: unexpected discounts; surprise; consumption motivation; consumer attention; purchase intention

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致謝

在這篇論文即將付梓之際,我謹向在論文撰寫過程中給予我無私幫助與支持的所有老師、同學、同事和親人致以最深切的謝意。

首先, 衷心感謝母校為我提供了優良的學習環境和豐富的學術資源。母校嚴謹的治學氛圍、開放的學術交流以及師長的諄諄教誨, 為本研究的順利開展奠定了堅實基礎。

在撰寫論文的漫長過程中,我的導師楊志林教授傾注了大量寶貴的時間與精力,對我的學術成長給予了悉心栽培。從選題的甄選到研究的具體實踐,直至文稿的最終完善,楊教授全程給予指導,傾注了無數心血。自踏入學術研究的大門以來,楊教授不僅在學術上以嚴謹負責的態度引導我,更在日常生活中給予無微不至的關懷。對我而言,他不僅是學術引路人,更是亦師亦友般的存在。楊教授以其淵博的知識和嚴謹的治學態度,通過言傳身教,為我看累了終生受用的精神財富。對此,我滿懷最深敬意與感激。

在攻讀博士學位的征途中,我也衷心感謝其他老師的慷慨相助。他們針 對我的研究課題規劃、執行過程、遭遇的挑戰以及論文撰寫,提出了眾多富 有洞察力的建議,為我的研究之路鋪設了堅實的基石,他們獨到的見解極大 地幫助了我進行論文創作。

同時,我深切感謝那些在研究助理崗位上工作的同學們,他們在量表設計、資料獲取、整理分析等關鍵環節提供了我寶貴的協助,這份支援令我銘記於心。我們在長期並局作戰中建立了深厚的友情,這份同窗情誼將是我一生的財富。

本文的研究得益于眾多學者前輩的智慧結晶。他們的成果為我提供了研究的起點與思路,使我能夠在前人基礎上進一步探索企業制定驚喜折扣策略的奧秘。在此,向所有被引用的文獻作者表示最崇高的敬意和感謝。

此外,我由衷地感謝事業上的合作夥伴。我們共同積累的實際經驗與總結,使我更深入地理解驚喜折扣策略在實際商業中的應用,為論文增添了實證支持和現實價值。

最後,我要對家人的支持和理解表達最深感激。在我全身心投入論文撰

寫時,他們始終是我最堅實的後盾。他們的鼓勵和關懷讓我能夠克服重重困 難,順利完成學業。

謹此,再次向所有在我學術生涯中給予幫助的老師、同學、同事和親人 致以最誠摯的感謝。你們的支持、鼓勵和陪伴,不僅助我完成這篇論文,更 在我的學術道路上留下了深刻印記。我將心懷感恩,繼續前行,為學術研究 和社會進步貢獻綿薄之力。

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