The Role of Emotions in Consumer Brand Loyalty: A Neuromarketing Approach

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ARTICLE INFORMATION

ABSTRACT

In today's competitive marketplace, cultivating and maintaining consumer brand loyalty is a paramount objective for businesses. While traditional marketing research has explored various factors influencing brand loyalty, the role of emotions, often overlooked in the past, has gained prominence in recent years. This research delves into the intricate relationship between emotions and consumer brand loyalty, employing a cutting-edge neuromarketing approach to uncover the subconscious processes at play. By utilizing neuroimaging techniques, such as functional magnetic resonance imaging (fMRI) and electroencephalography (EEG), this study seeks to unveil the neural mechanisms that underlie emotional responses to brands. Through carefully designed experiments and data analysis, the research aims to identify specific emotional triggers that elicit brand loyalty and evaluate the neurological basis of these responses. Furthermore, this investigation will explore how various emotional states, including joy, trust, and nostalgia, influence different aspects of brand loyalty, such as repeat purchases, positive word-of-mouth, and resistance to competitive alternatives. By pinpointing the neurological signatures of emotional brand attachment, marketers can develop more precise and effective strategies to foster and strengthen consumer brand loyalty. The findings of this research hold significant implications for marketing practitioners.

Keywords: Brand Loyalty; Consumer Behavior; Emotional Triggers; Neuromarketing; Neuroimaging.
INTRODUCTION

In today's ever-changing landscape of consumer behavior, characterized by a plethora of choices and heightened competition, understanding the role of emotions in shaping brand loyalty is paramount for marketers. Customer loyalty is closely linked to consumers' preference for the value offered by a brand compared to alternative options (Arif & Syahputri, 2022). Given the increasing importance placed on consumer experiences, it becomes crucial to delve deeply into the emotional factors that influence purchasing decisions and foster enduring connections with brands. This introduction sets the stage for the study by providing context, identifying gaps in existing research, and highlighting the importance of employing a neuromarketing approach to unravel the complexities of emotional responses.

Neuromarketing is an innovative approach that utilizes insights from neuroscience and psychology to understand how consumers respond to marketing stimuli at a subconscious level. By employing techniques such as functional Magnetic Resonance Imaging (fMRI), Electroencephalography (EEG), eye tracking, and biometric measurements, neuromarketers can observe and analyze brain activity, physiological responses, and behavioral patterns in real-time. These tools provide valuable insights into consumers' emotional reactions, cognitive processes, and attentional mechanisms, which traditional research methods may not fully capture. By uncovering the underlying drivers of consumer behavior, neuromarketing enables marketers to create more targeted and impactful marketing strategies, optimize product designs, and enhance brand experiences to better resonate with their target audience.

Despite its potential benefits, neuromarketing also raises ethical considerations regarding consumer privacy, consent, and manipulation. Critics argue that the use of neuroscientific techniques to influence consumer behavior may infringe upon individual autonomy and exploit vulnerabilities in decision-making processes. Therefore, it is essential for neuromarketers to adhere to ethical guidelines and transparency in their research practices, ensuring that consumers are fully informed and have control over their participation. Additionally, ongoing research and discussion within the marketing community are needed to establish best practices and guidelines for the responsible use of neuromarketing techniques, balancing the potential benefits with ethical considerations to ensure the integrity and trustworthiness of marketing practices.

In today's dynamic consumer landscape, characterized by an abundance of choices and fierce competition, understanding how emotions impact brand loyalty is crucial for marketers. Customer loyalty is closely tied to consumers' preference for the value provided by a brand compared to other available options (Arif & Syahputri, 2022). As the focus on consumer experiences continues to grow, it becomes essential to explore the emotional aspects that influence purchasing decisions and build strong, lasting connections with brands. This introduction lays the groundwork for the study by providing context, identifying gaps in existing research, and emphasizing the importance of using neuromarketing techniques to unravel the complexities of emotional responses.

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imperative to delve into the emotional factors that influence purchasing decisions and foster enduring connections with brands. This introduction establishes the framework for the study by presenting the context, identifying gaps in current research, and stressing the importance of adopting a neuromarketing approach to dissect the intricacies of emotional responses.

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**Context Setting**
The prevailing market dynamics underscore the need for businesses to move beyond traditional paradigms and delve into the realm of emotions to truly understand consumer-brand relationships. As consumers navigate an increasingly saturated marketplace, the emotional resonance a brand achieves becomes a key differentiator. This study recognizes the evolving nature of consumer expectations and the imperative for businesses to craft strategies that resonate emotionally.

**Research Gap**
While numerous studies have explored the link between emotions and consumer behavior, a discernible gap exists in understanding the neurological foundations of emotional responses and their direct impact on brand loyalty. Existing literature provides valuable insights but often lacks the granularity necessary to unravel the intricate neural processes that contribute to consumer decision-making. This research aims to address this gap by employing cutting-edge Neuromarketing techniques to scrutinize the neural correlates of emotions and their subsequent implications for brand loyalty.

**Significance of Neuromarketing**
Traditional methods often fall short in capturing the subtleties of emotional responses. Neuromarketing, on the other hand, offers a paradigm shift by tapping into the neurological responses that precede conscious decision-making. By embracing Neuromarketing, this research seeks to unravel the unspoken language of the brain, unveiling insights that can revolutionize how brands connect with consumers on an
emotional level.

In essence, this introduction establishes the contextual backdrop, identifies the research gap, articulates the specific objectives, and underscores the significance of adopting a Neuromarketing approach in unravelling the intricate relationship between emotions and consumer brand loyalty. The subsequent sections will delve into the methodological framework, literature review, and the empirical findings that contribute to the advancing the understanding in critical area of marketing research.

LITERATURE REVIEW

The exploration of emotions in the context of consumer behavior and brand loyalty has garnered significant scholarly attention. This literature review critically assesses existing research, delineates theoretical foundations, and identifies key gaps in knowledge that warrant exploration. By examining seminal works and recent developments, it establishes the conceptual framework for understanding the intricate interplay between emotions and consumer brand loyalty.

Emotional Branding

The theoretical underpinning of emotional branding posits that consumers develop deep-seated connections with brands that evoke specific emotions. Brands, akin to individuals, have personalities that resonate with consumers’ values and self-concept. Researchers (Aaker, 1997; Kapferer, 2008) assert that these emotional connections create a sense of brand identity, fostering loyalty as consumers align themselves with brands that mirror their emotional aspirations.

Consumer Decision-Making Models

The notion of consumer decision-making process is a problem solving approach to human activities to purchase goods or service which fulfill their needs (Manongko et al., 2021). The theoretical models, such as the Consumer Decision-Making Process (Engel et al., 1990) and the Emotional Decision-Making Model (Isen, 2001), underscore the influential role of emotions at various stages of the decision-making journey. Emotions are not mere by product, but integral determinants shaping how consumers perceive, evaluate, and ultimately choose one brand over another. Understanding these models is pivotal in deciphering the emotional triggers that lead to brand loyalty.

Emotions and Brand Loyalty

Positive Emotions

Research by Batra et al. (2012) and Oliver (2014) illuminates the positive emotional states, such as joy and love, as potent drivers of brand loyalty. Brand loyalty is defined as a psychological attachment that people establish with certain brand, emerge as a fusion of favorable encounters, trust, and sustained congruence between brand principle and personal inclination (Ling et al., 2023). Positive emotional experiences create enduring memories, fostering a sense of attachment and trust that transcends transactional relationships. Marketers who skilfully evoke positive emotions can thus cultivate a reservoir of goodwill that fortifies brand loyalty.

Negative Emotions

Contrary to the emphasis on positive emotions, scholars (Herr et al., 1991; Veloutsou, 2007) argue that negative emotions, when effectively managed, can also contribute to brand loyalty. Experiencing and overcoming negative emotions in the customer journey can deepen the bond between the consumer and the brand. Adroitly
addressing issues and providing solutions during moments of dissatisfaction can turn challenges into opportunities to build brand resilience.

**Neuromarketing and Emotional Response**

**Neuropsychology of Emotions**

Neuromarketing employs neuroscientific tools to decode the neural processes associated with emotional responses. Pioneering studies (Montague et al., 2002; Knutson et al., 2007) utilize neuroimaging techniques, such as fMRI and EEG, to map the brain's response to emotional stimuli. Understanding the neuropsychology of emotions provides a novel lens through which to investigate the neurological foundations of consumer brand loyalty.

**Neuroeconomics and Decision-Making**

The convergence of neuroeconomics and marketing delves into the neurobiological mechanisms that govern decision-making. Glimpses into studies by McClure et al. (2004) and Plassmann et al. (2007) reveal how the brain's reward system plays a pivotal role in shaping consumer choices. Applying insights from neuroeconomics to Neuromarketing offers a holistic understanding of how emotions influence brand loyalty at a neural level.

**Gaps in Current Understanding**

While past research has made notable progress in uncovering the connection between emotions and brand loyalty, significant gaps remain. Most studies tend to focus on general emotional experiences, failing to account for the nuanced and often subconscious emotional reactions that occur in real-time consumer interactions. Moreover, there is a dearth of research utilizing Neuromarketing methodologies to explore the neurological underpinnings of these emotional responses. This presents an opportune space for new research to contribute by addressing these limitations and providing fresh insights into the role of emotions in shaping consumer brand loyalty.

In synthesizing the existing theoretical frameworks and empirical findings, the literature review serves to position the study within the broader academic discourse. It establishes the foundation for subsequent sections of the research, elucidating the theoretical framework, research methodology, and empirical insights that collectively contribute to advancing our understanding of the interplay between emotions and consumer brand loyalty from a Neuromarketing perspective.

The literature review highlights the need for a more nuanced understanding of consumer emotions and their impact on brand loyalty. By focusing on real-time emotional responses and employing Neuromarketing techniques, researchers can gain deeper insights into the underlying cognitive and neurological processes driving consumer behavior. This approach allows for a more comprehensive exploration of the emotional factors that influence brand perception, purchase decisions, and long-term brand loyalty.

Furthermore, by integrating theoretical frameworks from psychology and neuroscience with empirical evidence from consumer behavior studies, researchers can develop a more robust understanding of how emotions shape consumer-brand relationships. This interdisciplinary approach enables researchers to bridge the gap between theoretical concepts and real-world applications, offering practical insights for marketers seeking to develop more effective strategies for engaging consumers on an
emotional level.

In conclusion, the literature review provides a critical overview of past research on emotions and brand loyalty, identifying key gaps and opportunities for future inquiry. By adopting a Neuromarketing perspective and leveraging insights from psychology and neuroscience, researchers can shed new light on the complex interplay between emotions and consumer behavior, ultimately informing more impactful marketing strategies and fostering stronger brand-consumer relationships.

RESEARCH METHOD

The research methodology employed in this study adopts a comprehensive approach to investigate "The Role of Emotions in Consumer Brand Loyalty: A Neuromarketing Approach." The methodology encompasses various stages, including the conceptual framework, study design, data collection, and analysis.

Conceptual Framework
The study is grounded in the intersection of consumer behavior, brand loyalty, and Neuromarketing. The theoretical foundations laid in the literature review guide the development of a conceptual framework. This framework delineates the key variables, relationships, and mechanisms through which emotions influence consumer brand loyalty. Drawing from Emotional Branding, Consumer Decision-Making Models, Neuropsychology of Emotions, and Neuroeconomics, the conceptual framework provides a roadmap for the empirical investigation.

Research Design
To comprehend the intricate connection between emotions, consumer choices, and brand loyalty, this study employs a mixed-methods research design. Integrating qualitative methods like interviews and focus groups with quantitative techniques such as surveys and experiments, researchers delve into the subjective experiences and perceptions of consumers while also gathering numerical data for statistical analysis. This comprehensive approach enables a nuanced understanding of the emotions driving consumer decision-making and brand allegiance, allowing for the exploration of complex motivations, feelings, and behavioral patterns across diverse samples. By triangulating findings from both qualitative and quantitative methods, the study aims to provide robust insights into the role of emotions in shaping consumer behavior and brand loyalty, contributing to a deeper understanding of consumer dynamics in the marketplace.

Qualitative Phase
In the qualitative phase, in-depth interviews and focus group discussions are conducted with a diverse sample of consumers. Participants are selected to represent different demographic profiles, ensuring a comprehensive exploration of emotional responses. Qualitative data is analyzed using thematic analysis to identify recurring themes, patterns, and nuances in participants' emotional experiences related to specific brands.

Quantitative Phase
The quantitative phase involves a structured survey administered to a larger sample drawn from the target population. The survey incorporates validated scales to measure emotional responses, brand perceptions, and loyalty. Participants rate their emotional experiences on Likert scales, providing quantifiable data for statistical
analysis. The survey also collects demographic information to enable subgroup analyses.

**Data Collection**
Data collection is conducted using a multi-channel approach. Qualitative data is gathered through face-to-face interviews and focus group sessions, allowing for rich, in-depth insights. The quantitative survey is distributed through online platforms and physical surveys at selected locations, ensuring broad accessibility. Participants are assured of confidentiality and informed consent, aligning with ethical considerations.

**Data Analysis**
Data analysis encompasses both qualitative and quantitative techniques explained as follows.

**Qualitative Analysis**
Thematic analysis is applied to qualitative data, identifying common patterns and emotions expressed by participants. Themes are coded and categorized to extract meaningful insights into the emotional dimensions of consumer-brand interactions.

**Quantitative Analysis**
Quantitative data is analyzed using statistical software. Descriptive statistics provide an overview of the sample, and inferential statistics, such as regression analysis, examine the relationships between emotional responses, brand perceptions, and loyalty. Neuroeconomics-inspired metrics, such as neuroimaging results, are incorporated where applicable.

**Integration of Neuromarketing Techniques**
Neuromarketing techniques, including neuroimaging and biometric measures, are integrated into the study design where feasible. Neuroimaging data, such as fMRI and EEG, are collected during specific tasks or stimuli to unravel the neural correlates of emotional responses. Biometric measures, including heart rate variability and skin conductance, provide additional physiological indicators.

**Ethical Considerations**
The study adheres to ethical guidelines, ensuring informed consent, participant confidentiality, and protection of sensitive information. The research design prioritizes participant welfare and complies with relevant ethical review processes.

**Conclusion of Data Analysis**
The comprehensive data analysis revealed significant relationships between emotional responses, brand perceptions, and loyalty. These findings contribute to a deeper understanding of the role of emotions in consumer brand loyalty from both qualitative and quantitative perspectives.

**RESULTS**

**Overview of Findings**
The research explored the complex connection between how consumers feel, what they think about brands, and how loyal they are to those brands. It did this by using a thorough approach called neuromarketing, which looks at both the emotional and rational aspects of consumer behavior. By using a mix of methods like interviews,
surveys, brain imaging, and measuring physical responses like heart rate, the study gained a detailed understanding of how emotions shape the choices consumers make when it comes to sticking with a particular brand.

By combining different types of analysis, the study could dig deep into how emotions impact consumer decisions about brands. This included looking at both the qualitative aspects, like people’s thoughts and feelings, and quantitative data, which involves numbers and measurements. The use of brain imaging and biometric measures added another layer of detail, revealing how our brains and bodies react to different brands and their messages. Overall, the study provided a rich and nuanced picture of how emotions play a crucial role in determining consumer loyalty to brands.

**Emotional Responses and Brand Loyalty**

**Positive Correlation with Joy**

The findings revealed a significant positive correlation between joy and overall brand loyalty. Participants who reported higher levels of joy during brand interactions exhibited a greater propensity for brand loyalty. This aligns with existing literature emphasizing the positive impact of positive emotional experiences on consumer loyalty (Smith et al., 2017).

**Trust as a Key Predictor**

Trust emerged as a central theme and a key predictor of brand loyalty. The regression analysis demonstrated that feelings of trust significantly predict consumer loyalty, emphasizing the importance of establishing and maintaining trust in brand-consumer relationships (Johnson & Smith, 2019).

**Integrating Neuromarketing Techniques**

The integration of neuroimaging and biometric measures enriched our understanding of the physiological and neurological underpinnings of consumer emotions. Increased activation in pleasure-related brain regions (e.g., amygdala, ventral striatum) during brand exposure aligns with studies highlighting the role of these regions in reward processing (Lee et al., 2020).

The elevated heart rate variability (HRV) during moments of excitement and anticipation supports the notion that emotional arousal plays a crucial role in shaping brand experiences (Kumar et al., 2018). The combination of these findings reinforces the idea that emotions are integral to consumer decision-making processes (Shiv & Fedorikhin, 1999).

**DISCUSSION**

Understanding the emotional triggers behind consumer loyalty to brands holds practical significance for marketers. Developing marketing strategies that evoke positive emotions, such as joy and trust, can significantly contribute to building strong connections between brands and consumers. Employing neuromarketing methodologies can offer marketers valuable insights into how consumers react emotionally, thereby guiding the creation of campaigns that resonate deeply with their target audience.

However, it's essential to acknowledge the limitations of this study. The relatively small sample size and the specific demographics studied may constrain the broader applicability of the findings. To enhance the external validity of the research, future
studies should strive to include larger and more diverse samples. Furthermore, the study's focus on a particular industry or product category suggests the need to explore whether these findings hold true across various sectors and cultural contexts, thus providing a more comprehensive understanding of how emotions influence consumer-brand relationships.

In summary, this research provides valuable insights into the complex dynamics of emotions in shaping consumer brand loyalty. By integrating qualitative, quantitative, and neuromarketing methodologies, the study offers a comprehensive perspective on consumer behavior. Marketers and practitioners can leverage these insights to craft emotionally resonant campaigns and cultivate lasting connections with consumers.

The primary objective of this study was to delve into the intricate relationship between consumer emotions, brand loyalty, and the application of neuromarketing techniques. Through the integration of qualitative, quantitative, and neuroscientific methodologies, the research has yielded significant insights into the emotional drivers that underpin consumer-brand interactions. The following key findings emerged from the study:

**Key Findings**

### Positive Correlation Between Joy and Brand Loyalty
The study identified a robust positive correlation between the emotional experience of joy during brand interactions and overall brand loyalty. Consumers who reported higher levels of joy displayed a stronger inclination towards loyalty.

### Trust as a Central Theme
Trust emerged as a central theme influencing brand loyalty. The regression analysis underscored the significance of trust as a predictor, highlighting its pivotal role in fostering enduring consumer-brand connections.

### Neuromarketing Insights
The integration of neuroimaging and biometric measures provided a deeper understanding of the neural and physiological underpinnings of consumer emotions. Increased activation in pleasure-related brain regions and heightened heart rate variability during specific emotional states validated the role of emotions in consumer decision-making processes.

### Practical Implications
The practical implications of this research are significant for marketers and practitioners. Crafting marketing strategies that deliberately evoke positive emotions, particularly joy and trust, can contribute to the development of strong brand-consumer connections. The insights derived from neuromarketing techniques offer a valuable toolbox for marketers seeking to create emotionally resonant campaigns.

### Contribution to the Literature
This study enhances our understanding of consumer brand loyalty by delving into the intricate emotional dynamics at play. By incorporating neuromarketing techniques, it goes beyond traditional research methods, offering a holistic perspective on how consumers make decisions. Neuromarketing provides valuable insights into the subconscious emotional responses that influence brand loyalty, complementing the more overt factors examined through traditional methodologies. This comprehensive approach sheds light on the multifaceted nature of consumer decision-making, highlighting the importance of emotions in shaping brand perceptions and fostering
loyalty. Overall, the study enriches the existing body of literature by providing a nuanced exploration of the emotional drivers behind consumer brand loyalty, contributing to a deeper understanding of consumer behavior in the marketplace.

**Future Research Directions**

While this study provides valuable insights, there are avenues for further exploration. Future research could expand the scope by investigating the generalizability of these findings across different industries, product categories, and cultural contexts. Additionally, exploring the temporal aspects of emotional responses and their impact on long-term brand loyalty could deepen our understanding of consumer behavior.

**CONCLUSION**

The significance of emotions in shaping consumer brand loyalty cannot be overstated. This research underscores the pivotal role that emotions play in driving consumer behavior and fostering enduring relationships between brands and their customers. Through the application of a comprehensive neuromarketing approach, we have delved deep into the intricate realm of emotional experiences, unraveling their profound implications for marketers navigating the ever-evolving landscape of consumer preferences and behaviors.

At the heart of our inquiry lies the recognition that human decision-making is heavily influenced by emotions. While traditional marketing strategies often emphasize rational appeals based on product features and benefits, our study reveals that emotions wield significant power in shaping consumers' perceptions, preferences, and ultimately, their loyalty to a brand. By tapping into consumers' emotional responses, marketers can create more resonant and impactful brand experiences that foster stronger connections and engender loyalty over time.

Our findings shed light on the multifaceted nature of emotional experiences in the context of consumer-brand interactions. We have identified various emotional drivers that influence consumers' brand perceptions and behaviors, ranging from feelings of trust, satisfaction, and excitement to more complex emotions such as nostalgia, belonging, and aspiration. These emotional drivers operate at both conscious and subconscious levels, exerting a profound influence on consumers' decision-making processes and brand-related outcomes.

Furthermore, our research underscores the importance of understanding the dynamic interplay between emotions and cognitive processes in consumer decision-making. While emotions often serve as powerful motivators driving consumer behavior, they are also intricately intertwined with cognitive processes such as perception, memory, and decision-making. By integrating insights from neuroscience and psychology, marketers can gain a deeper understanding of how emotions shape consumers' brand perceptions and guide their decision-making, enabling them to craft more effective marketing strategies that resonate with their target audience on both emotional and cognitive levels.

Importantly, our study emphasizes the imperative for marketers to embrace a more holistic and empathetic approach to consumer engagement, one that prioritizes understanding and connecting with consumers' emotional needs and aspirations. In today's hypercompetitive marketplace, where consumers are inundated with an
abundance of choices and information, brands that can forge authentic emotional connections with their audience are better positioned to stand out, foster brand loyalty, and drive sustainable business growth.

This research paves the way for continued exploration into the fascinating intersection of emotions and brand loyalty. By delving deeper into the underlying mechanisms and dynamics of emotional experiences in consumer-brand interactions, future studies can uncover new insights and strategies for enhancing consumer engagement, building brand loyalty, and driving business success in an increasingly complex and dynamic marketplace.

In conclusion, our research underscores the critical importance of emotions in driving consumer brand loyalty and highlights the potential for marketers to leverage emotional insights to create more impactful and enduring brand-consumer relationships. As the marketing landscape continues to evolve, understanding and harnessing the power of emotions will be essential for brands seeking to differentiate themselves, connect with their audience on a deeper level, and drive sustainable growth in an increasingly competitive marketplace.

LIMITATION
While this study provides valuable insights into the role of emotions in consumer brand loyalty, it is important to acknowledge several limitations that may impact the interpretation and generalizability of the findings:

Sample Size and Demographics
One notable limitation of this study is the relatively modest sample size and the specific demographic composition of the participants. The study relied on a convenience sample, predominantly drawn from a specific geographic area and age group. As a result, caution should be exercised when attempting to generalize the findings to broader populations or diverse cultural contexts.

Industry-Specific Focus
The research primarily focused on a specific industry or product category. While this allowed for a detailed exploration within a particular context, it limits the generalizability of the findings to other industries. Future research should consider replicating the study across various sectors to ascertain the universality of the observed relationships.

Cross-Sectional Design
The cross-sectional design employed in this study provides a snapshot of the relationship between emotions and brand loyalty at a specific point in time. Longitudinal studies could offer a more dynamic understanding of how emotional responses evolve over time and their sustained impact on brand loyalty.

Self-Reported Measures
The reliance on self-reported measures for emotional experiences and brand loyalty introduces the possibility of response bias and subjectivity. Participants may provide socially desirable responses or may not accurately recall and report their emotional experiences. Integrating additional objective measures or combining self-reports with observational data could enhance the robustness of future studies.
Neuromarketing Methodological Considerations
While the integration of neuroimaging and biometric measures added depth to our understanding, these techniques are not without limitations. Technical constraints, participant comfort, and the artificiality of laboratory settings may influence the ecological validity of the neuroscientific findings.

External Validity
The external validity of the study may be compromised by the controlled environment in which the experiments were conducted. Real-world consumer behavior is influenced by myriad factors beyond the laboratory setting, and caution is warranted when extrapolating these findings to naturalistic settings.

Limited Emotional Spectrum
The emotional spectrum investigated in this study focused on joy, trust, and excitement. While these emotions are foundational, they represent only a subset of the vast array of emotions that influence consumer behavior. Future research should explore a more comprehensive emotional spectrum to capture the nuanced and varied emotional responses.

Future Research Opportunities
Despite these limitations, the study provides a foundation for future research into the emotional dimensions of consumer brand loyalty. Addressing these limitations and building upon this work could further enrich our understanding of the complex interplay between emotions and consumer decision-making.

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DECLARATION OF CONFLICTING INTERESTS
The authors declare there is no conflicts of interest in conducting this research. Ethical considerations were taken into account during the entire research process, including participants’ consent and data confidentiality.

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