

User-Friendly Jargon for Statistics

Significant results that are not important, normal distributions that are not usual, standard deviations that are not acceptable, regression that is not a backward step, expected values that never occur - these common occurrences have the potential to confuse all but the most indoctrinated statistician. And then we verbalize our descriptions of these things in a foreign language using Greek letters. Is there a fix to this disastrous marketing of our discipline?

Significant -> Statistically Significant (SS)

Not Significant -> Not Statistically Significant (NSS)

Standard Deviation -> SD

Regression -> Linear Predictor (LP) or Nonlinear Predictor (NLP)

Expected Values -> Mean or Population Mean or Long Run Mean

Greek Letters -> Use Greek Letter Names like alpha, beta, etc in statements

Normal -> Gaussian

Error -> Variation or Unexplained Variation or Uncontrolled Variation

Standard Error -> Imprecision of Estimate or Variability of Estimate

Population -> Theoretical or Proposed

Correlation -> Linear Correlation

Analysis of Variance -> Comparison of Means

Variance -> SD^2 or use SD itself when appropriate

Sample Distribution -> Distribution of Sample

Sampling Distribution of T() -> Distribution of T() due to sampling (SDT)

Independent Variable -> Free Variable, or Predictor, or Stimulus

Dependent Variable -> Outcome Variable, or Predicted Variable, or Response

Null Hypothesis -> Hypothesis

Alternative Hypothesis -> Alternative

Accept Hypothesis -> Fail-to-Reject Hypothesis or NSS

Relative Frequency -> Proportional Frequency

Histogram -> Grouped Frequency Chart (GFC)

Scattergram -> Bivariate Dotplot

One-tail, Two-tail -> One-sided, Two-sided

Unbiased, Biased -> Centered, Uncentered

Hypergeometric Distribution -> SWOR distribution

Lognormal Distribution -> Exponential Distribution