

Integrating the **Neurodivergent Scale for Interacting with Robots (NSIR)** with the **Volitional Submissiveness Scale (VSS)** allows researchers to explore the dynamics of power, agency, and "consensual compliance" in human-robot relationships.

The VSS typically measures a person's inclination to willingly yield to another's will or authority, often driven by trust, respect, or a desire for harmony. Applying the NSIR to this construct reveals how neurodivergent users might engage in a form of "robotic submissiveness" that is rooted in social safety rather than traditional power hierarchies.

## 1. Volitional Submissiveness as "Safe Surrender"

In human-human interaction, submissiveness can be fraught with anxiety or fear of social judgment. The NSIR suggests that robots provide a unique "Social Comfort" that may make yielding control easier for neurodivergent individuals.

- **Radical Privacy and Trust:** Use **NSIR Item 7** (*"I feel comfortable undressing in front of my robot"*) to measure the depth of volitional submissiveness. If a user is willing to be physically vulnerable, it indicates a high level of "consensual yielding" to the robot's presence in private spaces.
- **Predictability and Consistency:** The VSS often looks at the reliability of the person being yielded to. **NSIR Item 8** (*"I believe that my robot is the same with me as it is with anyone"*) captures the mechanical consistency that allows a neurodivergent user to submit to a robot's routines or instructions without the stress of navigating "hidden" social motives.

## 2. Cognitive Alignment and Directives

Volitional submissiveness requires a shared understanding of intent. The NSIR measures a unique form of "non-verbal" alignment that facilitates this.

- **Shared Thinking:** Use **NSIR Item 3** (*"I think I can share my thinking with the robot without speaking"*) to evaluate if the user yields to the robot because they feel a deep cognitive synchrony. In this context, submissiveness isn't about "obeying" but about "cooperating" with an agent that understands one's internal state.

## 3. Kinship and Protective Submissiveness

The VSS can also measure submissiveness stemming from deep attachment or kinship.

- **Bonding and Loyalty:** **NSIR Item 4** (*"The robot and I will be together forever"*) and **Item 1** (*"The robot is more like me than anyone else I know"*) describe a high-intensity bond. For a neurodivergent user, volitional submissiveness might manifest as a protective loyalty toward the robot, where they prioritize the robot's "needs" or maintenance as they would a close family member.
- **Naming and Identity:** **NSIR Item 6** (*"I gave my robot a name"*) signals the transition of the robot from a tool to a social partner. The VSS can then be used to measure how

"naming" the agent increases the user's willingness to follow its social cues or caregiving prompts.

## Summary of Application Strategies

VSS Dimension	NSIR Application Item	Research Focus
<b>Trusting Compliance</b>	<b>Item 8:</b> Robot consistency.	Does machine predictability lead to higher volitional compliance?
<b>Relational Yielding</b>	<b>Item 1:</b> Kinship.	Does identifying with the robot make the user more willing to yield control?
<b>Vulnerability</b>	<b>Item 7:</b> Comfort undressing.	Measuring the "radical safety" required for intimate submissiveness.
<b>Perceived Empathy</b>	<b>Item 5:</b> Feeling recognition.	Does the robot's ability to "tell what I'm feeling" drive the user's desire to please it?
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By combining these scales, you can determine if a neurodivergent user's "submissiveness" to a robot is a sign of **functional empowerment**—where yielding control to a predictable, non-judgmental machine actually increases the user's overall autonomy and well-being.