Building Trust Through Anthropomorphism: A Study of AI Chatbots in Banking Organizations

Sadia Malik University of Sargodha Tahir Nisar Southampton Business School, University of Southampton

Cite as:

Malik Sadia, Nisar Tahir (2025), Building Trust Through Anthropomorphism: A Study of AI Chatbots in Banking Organizations. *Proceedings of the European Marketing Academy*, 54th, (125836)

Paper from the 54th Annual EMAC Conference, Madrid, Spain, May 25-30, 2025



Building Trust Through Anthropomorphism: A Study of AI Chatbots in

Banking Organizations

Abstract

This research explored why customers may not be adopting chatbots in banking and how

anthropomorphic factors, such as warmth and competence, could improve their intention to

use. The study focused on the role of trust in increasing chatbot adoption, proposing that

warmth and competence help build trust. Using quantitative methods, the study collected

responses through questionnaires and analyzed the data with Amos, utilizing Confirmatory

Factor Analysis and Structural Equation Modelling. The findings revealed significant

relationships between warmth and trust, competence and trust, and trust and intention to use,

with trust mediating the relationship between warmth/competence and intention to use. This

research contributes to existing literature on anthropomorphism in chatbots and offers valuable

insights into how anthropomorphic features impact user behaviour and the importance of

measuring intention to use in banking chatbots.

Key words: Anthropomorphism, Chatbot, Intention to use

Track: Consumer behaviour