<u>Redefining the Linear-Thinking Hyper-Lexical Neurotype</u>
<u>from the Lens of a Patron Saint LTHL Thinker</u>

Preface
The focus of this thread will be on the Patron Saint subset of the Linear-Thinking Hyper-Lexical (LTHL) neurotype, using Tsunemori Akane's placement as a Patron Saint within Category 1 as the foundation for my argument against the use of the term "Middle Manager" to describe the broader category. My end goal is to propose a few terms that might replace the existing label while staying true to the ideals at the root of Digi's explanation of the "Middle Manager."

Introduction to the Thread's Structure
This thread will essentially be in the form of an argumentative essay albeit loosely structured to allow for more creative freedom on my part, as I would consider Akane to be the most personally relatable anime character I have come across in any form of media to date; my personal bias is precisely the reason why I am as invested as I am in delving deeper into this category in search of a more fitting label for the LTHL neurotype, but I will try to provide concise justification within reasonable limits.

Unpacking Digi's Explanation of the LTHL Neurotype
In his description of the LTHL neurotype, Digi begins by stating:

"Very linear, very lexical thinkers are the classic idea of the Type A anal retentive personality. These people have little patience for nonsense because they need their time just to process the rules which are already in place, and they are obsessed with rules, whether those be the laws of the land or their own conception of the rules of nature. To one of these people, a word which doesn't fit its definition to the letter is an inappropriate word, and anyone using or spelling words wrongly comes off as dumb."

This description is succinct enough to be both easily digestible and instantly recognizable to any LTHL thinker, the key here being the tendency towards parsing information in a way that places emphasis on the formation of distinct systems of thought over time in a linear fashion. Building upon past knowledge and habits to form a present sense of order and guidance is characteristic of people with the LTHL neurotype, and Digi does well to make this clear right off the bat.

Moving forward a bit, Digi elaborates upon his profile of the LTHL thinker by stating:

"Lexical thinkers have a tendency to assume positions of authority because of their ability to identify and enforce the rules of a system to the letter; however, being on the far end of the lexical spectrum, these people have difficulty understanding and communicating with more impressionistic people, which can make it difficult for them to take up leadership positions

that require them to communicate with those people. The spirit of the law is often difficult to capture in its letters after all, which is why a lot of legal language is written to be deliberately and intricately vague. This is why linear-thinking hyper-lexical thinkers tend to be better at enforcing rules than they are at making or understanding rules, hence my titling them as *Middle Managers*. For one of these people, the biggest threats to their happiness are getting trapped in a system that takes advantage of them and their difficulty in communicating with less lexical thinkers."

Comparing this statement to Akane's character arc in Psycho-Pass (Season 1), this is where Digi's broad description begins to show its inaccuracy in classifying the Patron Saint LTHL thinker as a "Middle Manager". Outlining the LTHL thinker's trouble with, "understanding and communicating with more impressionistic people," seems at a surface-level to be a reasonable conclusion for Digi to draw given the behaviour of the average LTHL thinker, but this misinterpretation of the linear and highly lexical thought process leads to confusion regarding the diversity of LTHL thinkers by shoehorning the lower and higher IQ members of this neurotype under the label of "Middle Manager." It might seem like the use of this term is suitable as Digi later explains that Ei-chan from Baby Steps, a lower IQ LTHL thinker, would be perfectly suited to employment in a middle management position within Japanese society, but this description begins to fall apart at the higher end of the spectrum with characters like Akane from Psycho-Pass and Rossiu from Gurren Lagann who, given time, are more than capable of coming to understand how to communicate with less lexical thinkers and even to reach their own moral conclusions that take into account an impressionistic perspective.

Digi himself references this when he states:

"It could be argued that [Akane's] arc over the course of the show is basically just her struggle to understand the conception nearly everyone else she encounters has that the letters of this world's laws are fundamentally flawed; and in the end, she comes to the conclusion that the spirit of the law, while yet intangible, is something fundamentally different from the current letter of the law, and that she will from now on consider herself loyal to the letters of her *own* codification of that law."

This statement, while very accurate, only serves to contradict the idea that people falling under the LTHL neurotype struggle to understand rules or create rules themselves. It is precisely because of the LTHL thinker's characteristic thought process that they are, with enough cognitive effort and processing time, able to work their way from a state of limited comprehension to one of comprehensive understanding in respect to any given system (see Rossiu leading humanity to a golden age of technology at an unprecedented rate in Gurren Lagann). In Akane's case, her internal struggle with the morality of the Sibyl system leads her to a comprehensive understanding of her place in the world that allows her to make what is likely the only decision that would not immediately get her killed while still providing her with the opportunity to defy the status quo and work towards building a future in which the

spirit of the law is truly upheld. As the Patron Saint of LTHL thinkers, you can see Akane's growth in this respect quite clearly as she continues to process a great deal of information in the field with each new case that she is assigned, many of which lead to moments of intense emotion and trauma for her. Assigning someone like Akane the label of "Middle Manager" is reductive, and it highlights the most pertinent issue with Digi's classification of the LTHL thinker as a "Middle Manager": it implies that they are someone with a limited capacity for emotional intelligence.

Developing a Broader Understanding of the LTHL Thinker
While the average LTHL thinker might be less in touch with their emotions, the more intelligent members of this category are susceptible to developing a breadth of emotional intelligence as they follow seemingly endless linear thought processes; this tendency is comparable to that of brooders if slightly less lateral in nature. In spending prolonged periods of time searching inward, LTHL thinkers like Akane are able to develop a strong sense of self, which Digi references earlier in his explanation when he states, "Linear thinkers tend to have a powerful sense of self, since at any given time they define themselves in that moment by their singular ongoing chain of thought, whereas more lateral thinkers may struggle to place themselves within the current moment, instead viewing themselves in terms of behavioural trends or life arcs." Through the development of their distinct sense of self, LTHL thinkers can grow to become much more in tune with impressionistic and lateral thinkers if only because of their fascination with those seemingly foreign trains of thought.

Relating this to my personal experience, many of my favourite anime characters are comfortably seated on opposite ends of Digi's Neurotyping Chart relative to myself, with several fascinators (namely Rei and Hitagi) taking up spots on my favourites list alongside newtypes (namely Shinji, Yui, and Nia) and purely instinctual characters (namely Gon and Rei). This stems from the fact that it is fascinating to explore their thought processes and actions from the ground up due to their relatively foreign nature shrouded in abstraction. It is more than possible for LTHL thinkers to become champions of the everyman, with both Akane and Rossiu being prime examples of characters who advocate for the greater good as they see it in an effort to drive societal reforms (i.e. to help as many people as is feasible).

As Digi says, Akane was, "top of her class and given the highest recommendation for every possible job in government by the government." One scene that provides a great deal of insight into the higher IQ LTHL mindset takes place when Akane is having a conversation with Shuu, an enforcer at the Bureau, and he tells her, "You could become anything. You could choose any kind of life. You've even agonized over it, right? That's incredible." In a recent twitter thread on Psycho-Pass, I wrote that, "to me, Akane represents the brighter side of humanity's infallible resolve to struggle against the cruel hand of fate in search of a better future." While this idea can be attributed to Psycho-Pass' tendency towards social commentary, it also serves to outline the higher IQ LTHL thinker's mindset as one whose distinct sense of self sows the seeds of both the passion to strive for improvement in all facets

of life and the work ethic necessary to make it happen. While the self-absorbed nature of more intelligent LTHL thinkers might hold them back from fully understanding their most lateral and impressionistic peers, it equally grants them enough breathing room to exit the boundaries of middle management and enter the realm of effecting change through the development and enforcement of their own ideologies.

Outlining More Representative Labels for the LTHL Thinker
Taking into account the propensity of intelligent LTHL thinkers to contradict the formal definition of a "Middle Manager", I would like to propose three alternative labels for the LTHL thinker that are more representative of the breadth of perspectives found within this category. It is important that such a label be inclusive of LTHL thinkers across the spectrum (from Workin' Hard to Patron Saint), so the sole constraint for any proposed label is that it must be inclusive of both lower and higher IQ members of the category. Alternative labels are listed below and ordered from most suitable to least suitable.

#1: Bookkeepers
The most accurate label that I could think of for the linear-thinking hyper-lexical thinker would be the term "Bookkeeper". While the term has traditionally been used to describe people employed to record financial affairs, it can easily be used to describe both lower and higher IQ LTHL thinkers because it suggests a linear method of processing and storing information through the keeping of a figurative book, which might represent anything from knowledge of a particular technical skill to a holistic worldview informed by a constantly expanding journal of thoughts. It covers the Workin' Hard LTHL thinkers like Ei-chan who rely on playbooks and rock-solid work ethic to succeed, but it is equally inclusive of LTHL thinkers like Akane who have the potential to become advocates and changemakers given enough time to take in the world around them (and allow countless one-track thought processes to run their course in their heads). It also covers the middle ground of this category, which Digi references as often being portrayed in anime through nagging girlfriends, as the very act of constantly being on someone's case requires you to keep track of their actions and act in a linear fashion to keep them in check (i.e. enforce the rules).

#2: Accountant
Due to the fact that the formal definition of this term is so similar to that of the bookkeeper, the label "Accountant" could be used in its place, but the term bookkeeper is more self-explanatory in nature given the linear and hyper-lexical nature of bookkeeping.

#3: Particular People
The reason why I would consider this label the least suitable of the three proposed alternatives is that it sounds far too similar to Category 5 ("Reasonable People") regardless of its accuracy.

Final Words
Thanks for reading!

This was the product of what was most likely my longest sustained linear train of thought to date, so I hope it was both coherent and comprehensive. I would be happy to hear your thoughts on my analysis and the alternative labels that I proposed, but I would be even happier if one of the labels stuck :)

I have to admit I'm already fairly fond of the term Bookkeeper.