A Matter of Memory?

Age–Invariant Relative Clause Disambiguation and Memory Interference

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Introduction

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L+PLUS LAB

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- Preliminary evidence for intact linguistic processes Hardy et al., 2017, 2020; Van Boxtel & Lawyer, *in press*

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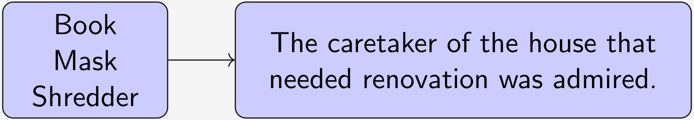

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Non-interfering:

Book
Mask
Shredder
→ The caretaker of the house that needed renovation was admired.

Interfering:

Janitor
Handyman
Window
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- Not many studies with older adults, no interference angles;
- Fundamental to linguistic behaviour!

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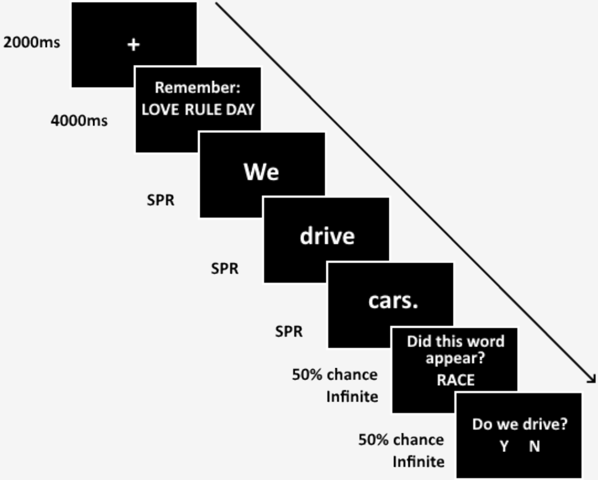
Letter Comparison Test

JTJAPHP GQPHMSP
(Non-matching)
OHNQPNS OHNQPNS
(Matching)

Procedure


2000ms
+
Remember:
LOVE RULE DAY
4000ms
We
SPR
drive
SPR
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SPR
Did this word appear?
RACE
50% chance
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Design

NP1, Interfering	NP1, Non-Interfering
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1. Older adults should be slower readers;
2. Older adults should show more severe interference;
3. Older adults might show different attachment preferences.

Results

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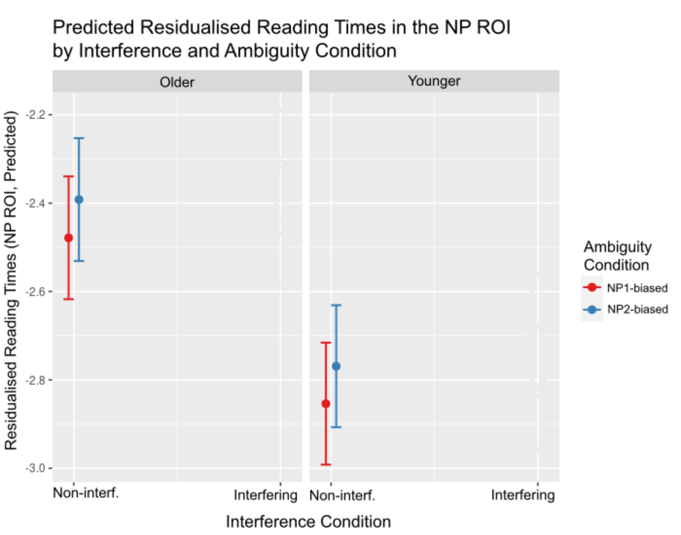
Predicted Residualised Reading Times in the NP ROI
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Older
Younger
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-2.2
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Non-interf.
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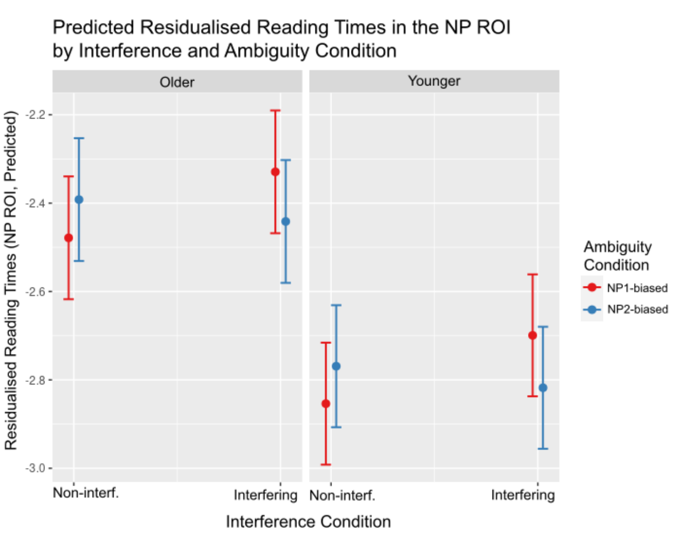

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  - How about those recall prompts?

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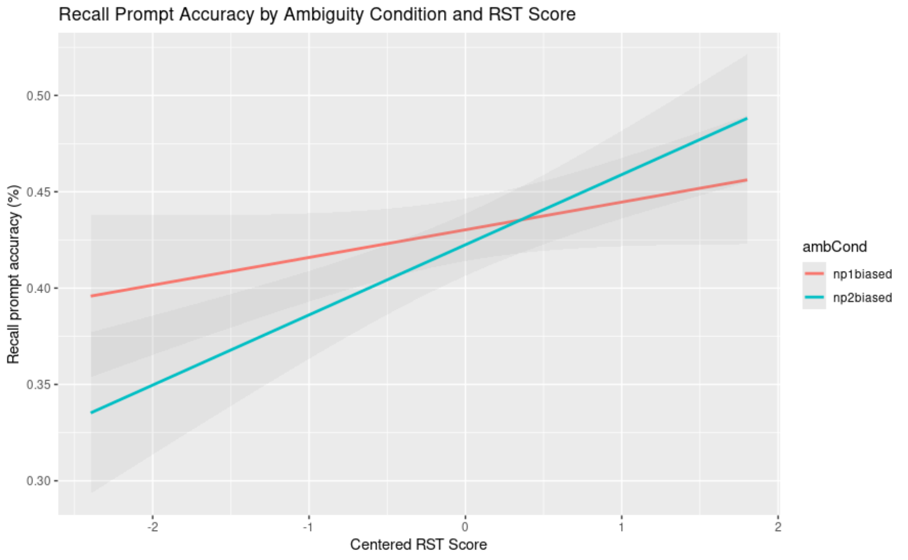

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→ Interaction of syntax / memory / semantic abilities is key.

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- Interference: attempt other techniques:
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  - Tailoring interference to either NP;
- Integrate with linguistic prediction.

Thank you for your attention!

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