

**Grant Number**: (if applicable, if not N/A)ES/P001866/1

**Sponsor:** ESRC

**Project title**: An Experimental Investigation of Syntactic Priming and the Lexical Boost in Language Production

The following files have been archived:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| File name | File description (Short description of content, sample size, format, any linking between different types of data, i.e. survey and interviews/focus groups) |
| Exp1\_Noun\_repetition\_look\_back | MS Excel file, Data Experiment 1 |
| Exp2\_Noun\_repetition\_no\_look\_back | MS Excel file, Data Experiment 2 |
| Exp3\_Verb\_repetition\_look\_back | MS Excel file, Data Experiment 3 |
| Exp4\_Verb\_repetition\_no\_look\_back | MS Excel file, Data Experiment 4 |
|  |  |
|  |  |
|  |  |

**Publications**: (based on this data, if any)

Van Gompel, R.P.G., Wakeford, L.J., & Kantola, L. (2022). No looking back: the effects of visual cues on the lexical boost in structural priming. Language, Cognition and Neuroscience. https://doi.org/10.1080/23273798.2022.2036782

**Description of the experiments**

Four structural priming experiments used a sentence fragment completion task in which participants had to complete both prime and target sentence fragments. We manipulated (1) the prime structure (prepositional object or double object eliciting ditransitive structure, e.g., *the cleaner showed the ladder to …* or *the cleaner showed the apprentice …*) and (2) whether a word in the prime was repeated in the target. Target fragments consisted of a subject noun phrase followed by a verb (e.g., *A painter lent …*), which participants could complete as either a prepositional object or double object structure. In Experiments 1 and 2, we manipulated the repetition of the subject noun, whereas in Experiments 3 and 4, we manipulated the repetition of the ditransitive verb. We used two different tasks in order to investigate whether structural priming was affected by whether participants could see the prime when completing the target. In Experiments 1 and 3, participants received booklets and provided hand-written completions to the sentence fragments, so they could see the prime and target simultaneously. In Experiments 2 and 4, participants typed responses to the sentence fragments that appeared one-by-one on a computer screen, so they could not see earlier fragments and completions. As the dependent variable, we scored whether participants completed the target fragments with a prepositional object or double object structure.

**Participants**

Participants were students from the University of Dundee who were native speakers of English and had no known reading difficulties. The study was approved by the University of Dundee ethics committee and all participants gave informed consent to take part in the study. Experiment 1 tested 56 participants, Experiment 2 48 participants, Experiment 3 40 participants and Experiment 4 48 participants.

**Explanation of variables**

Participant: Participant number

Fragment: Sentence fragment completed by participants

Completion: Participants’ completions of sentence fragments

Completionstruct: Whether sentence fragment was completed with a prepositional object (p), double object (d) or other (x) structure

Particle: Whether completion contained a particle (e.g. as in *gave away*)

Clausal: Whether completion contained a clausal structure (e.g., as in *showed the man what to do*)

Reversibility: Whether prepositional object or double object was reversible to alternative structure

Item: Item number

Condition: Conditions including the noun or verb repetition counterbalancing variable (e.g., whether prime contained *showed* and target contained *handed* or the other way around)

List: Participant list

Verbrepetition/Nounrepetition: Whether verb or subject noun was repeated between prime and target (y) or not (n)

PrimeTarget: Whether stimulus is a prime (p) or target (t)

Primecorrect (only in Experiment 1): Whether the prime was completed as intended (TRUE), i.e. as a prepositional object structure when it was a prepositional object prime and a double object structure when it was a double object prime

**Coding**

A completion was scored as a prepositional object structure (PO) if the verb was followed by a theme noun phrase and a recipient prepositional object (in that order). It was scored as a double object structure (DO) if the verb was followed by a recipient indirect object noun phrase and a theme direct object noun phrase (again in that order). Responses where participants added a particle (e.g., as in *showed off*) were considered a PO or DO if they had the appropriate structure.