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

The following files have been archived:

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| 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) |
| Exp1matrixboost.xlsx | See below |
| Exp2matrixboost.xlsx | See below |
| Exp3matrixboost.xlsx | See below |
| Experimental\_sentences.docx | See below |
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**Publications**: (based on this data, if any)

In preparation

**Description of the experiments**

In three structural priming experiments, we investigated whether the repetition of a matrix verb between a prime and target sentence increased the structural priming effect. We used prime sentences such as (1a-d) that participants had to read aloud, followed by a target fragment such as (2), which participants read aloud and completed using pictures.

1a. The hotel owner refused to loan the tourist a tent. (DO prime, matrix verb repeated)

1b. The hotel owner refused to loan the tent to a tourist. (PO prime, matrix verb repeated)

1c. The hotel owner decided to loan the tourist a tent. (DO prime, matrix verb not repeated)

1d. The hotel owner decided to loan the tent to a tourist. (PO prime, matrix verb not repeated)

2. The chef refused to pass ... /The chef decided to pass ...

In Experiments 1 and 2, participants had to complete the targets by using words for pictures that were simultaneously presented (e.g., pictures of a chef, knife and robber in (2)), whereas in Experiment 3, there were no pictures. In all experiments, we manipulated (1) the prime structure (prepositional object/PO or double object/DO ditransitive structure and (2) whether the matrix verb in the prime (e.g., *refused*) was repeated in the target. In Experiment 1, the prime and target verbs were relatively frequent, whereas in Experiments 2 and 3, they were less frequent. As the dependent variable, we scored whether participants completed the target fragments with a prepositional object or double object structure.

**Files**

Exp1matrixboost.xlsx: MS Excel file with data from Experiment 1.

Exp2matrixboost.xlsx: MS Excel file with data from Experiment 2.

Exp3matrixboost.xlsx: MS Excel file with data from Experiment 3.

Experimental\_sentences.docx: MS Word file with experimental prime and target sentences from all experiments.

**Participants**

Participants were students from the University of Dundee who were native speakers of English and had no known reading or language 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 40 participants, Experiment 2 56 participants and Experiment 3 40 participants.

**Explanation of variables**

Experiment: Experiment number (1-3)

participant: participant ID

item: item number

condition: 1 = DO prime, matrix verb not repeated, 2 = PO prime, matrix verb not repeated, 3 = DO prime, matrix verb repeated, 4 = PO prime, matrix verb repeated

primestruct: DO (double object prime) or PO (prepositional object prime)

matrixverbrep: R (matrix verb repeated) or N (matrix verb not repeated)

targetfragment: sentence fragment completed by participants

completion: participants’ completions of the sentence fragments

scoring: Whether the sentence fragment was completed with a prepositional object (p), double object (d) or other (x) structure. If the prime or target was misread, this was coded as “m”

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

**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.