

The role of proactive control during adjective processing in Spanish L1

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INTRODUCTION

Evidence exploring the processing of adjective position in Spanish have shown that L1 speakers of Spanish use adjectives more in the **postnominal** than the **prenominal** position (Scontras, 2023), since this is the **unmarked position** (Demonte, 2008). The adjective position in the sentence can be semantically marked suggesting restrictive (postnominal) or non restrictive (prenominal) interpretation. This phenomenon has been studied for L2 learners of Spanish (with L1 as a control) and using offline tasks. Our goal is to explore the role of **L1 use** and **cognitive control** during **online processing** to seek whether the individual differences between native speakers of Spanish when processing semantically such loaded structures.

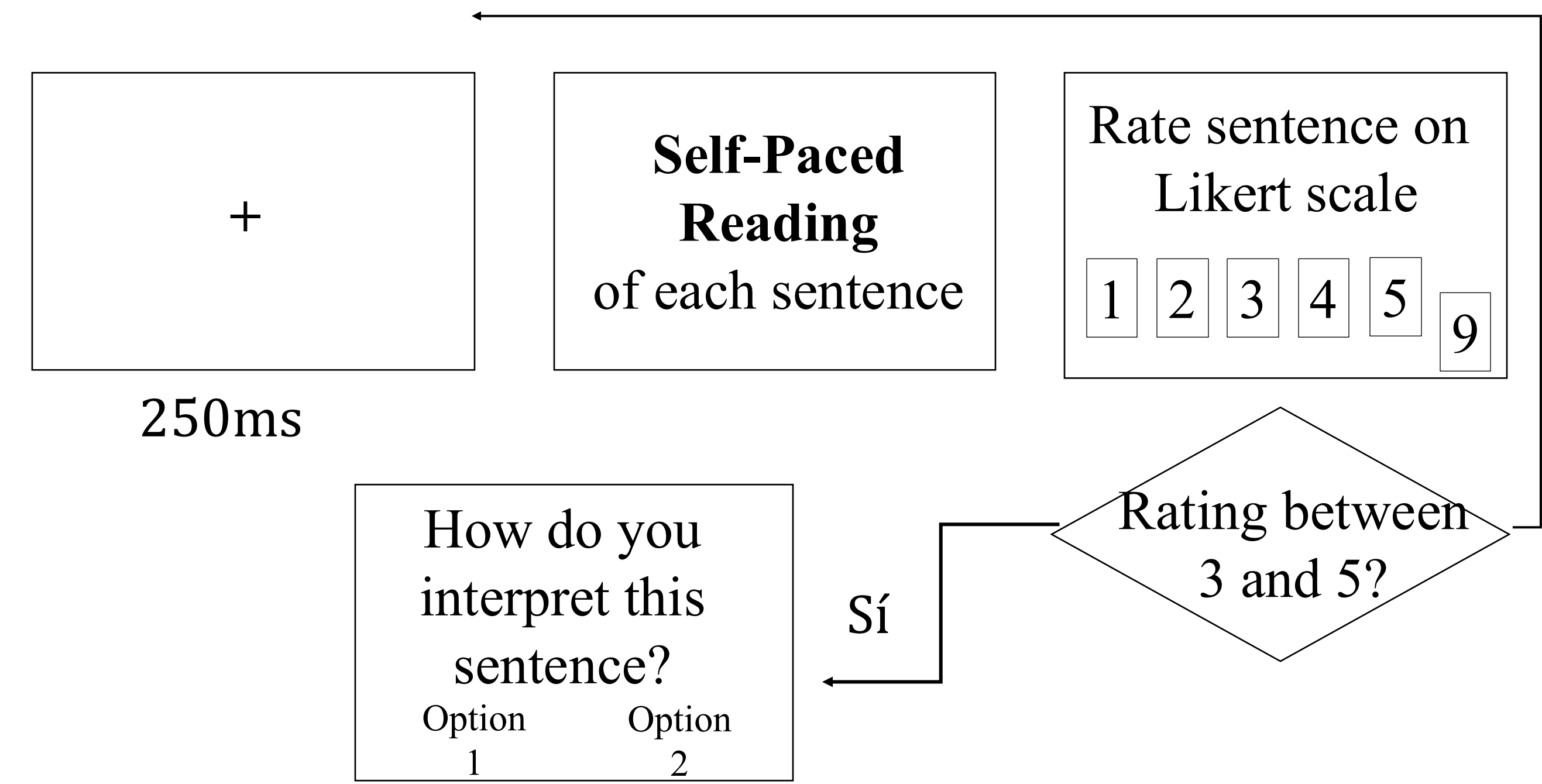
METHOD

Participants: 50 L1 Spanish with variable experience with different languages.

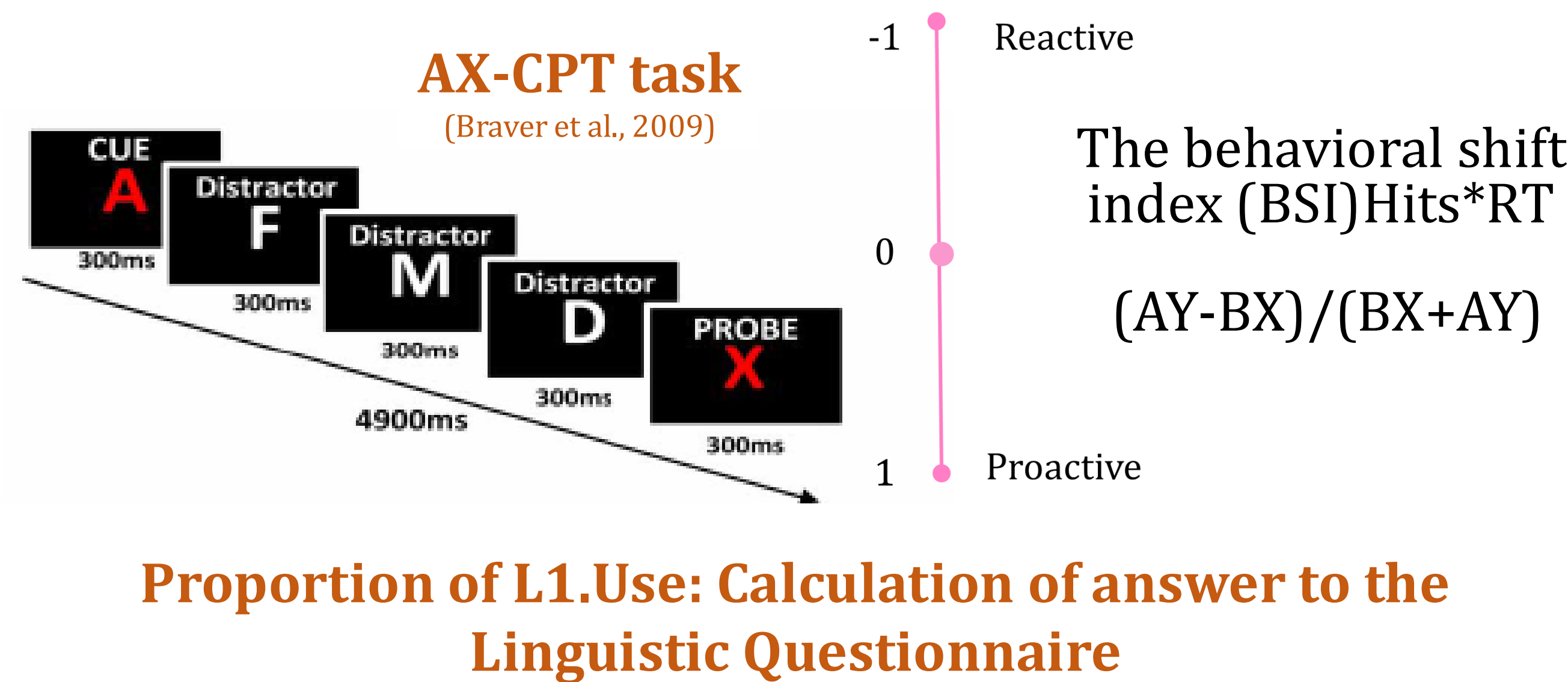
- 18-35 years old (M = 26.12; SD = 4.39)
- Self-rated language skills on a scale from 1 to 7

	Prenominal	Postnominal
Adjective in variable position (k = 15)	Las valientes mujeres frenaron el ataque de ayer	Las mujeres valientes frenaron el ataque de ayer
Adjective in fix position-grammatical (k = 15)	El presunto asesino fue capturado por la policía	Las sanciones económicas afectaron al país
Adjective in fix position-ungrammatical (k = 15)	*Las económicas sanciones afectaron al país	*El asesino presunto fue capturado por la policía

Experimental task:

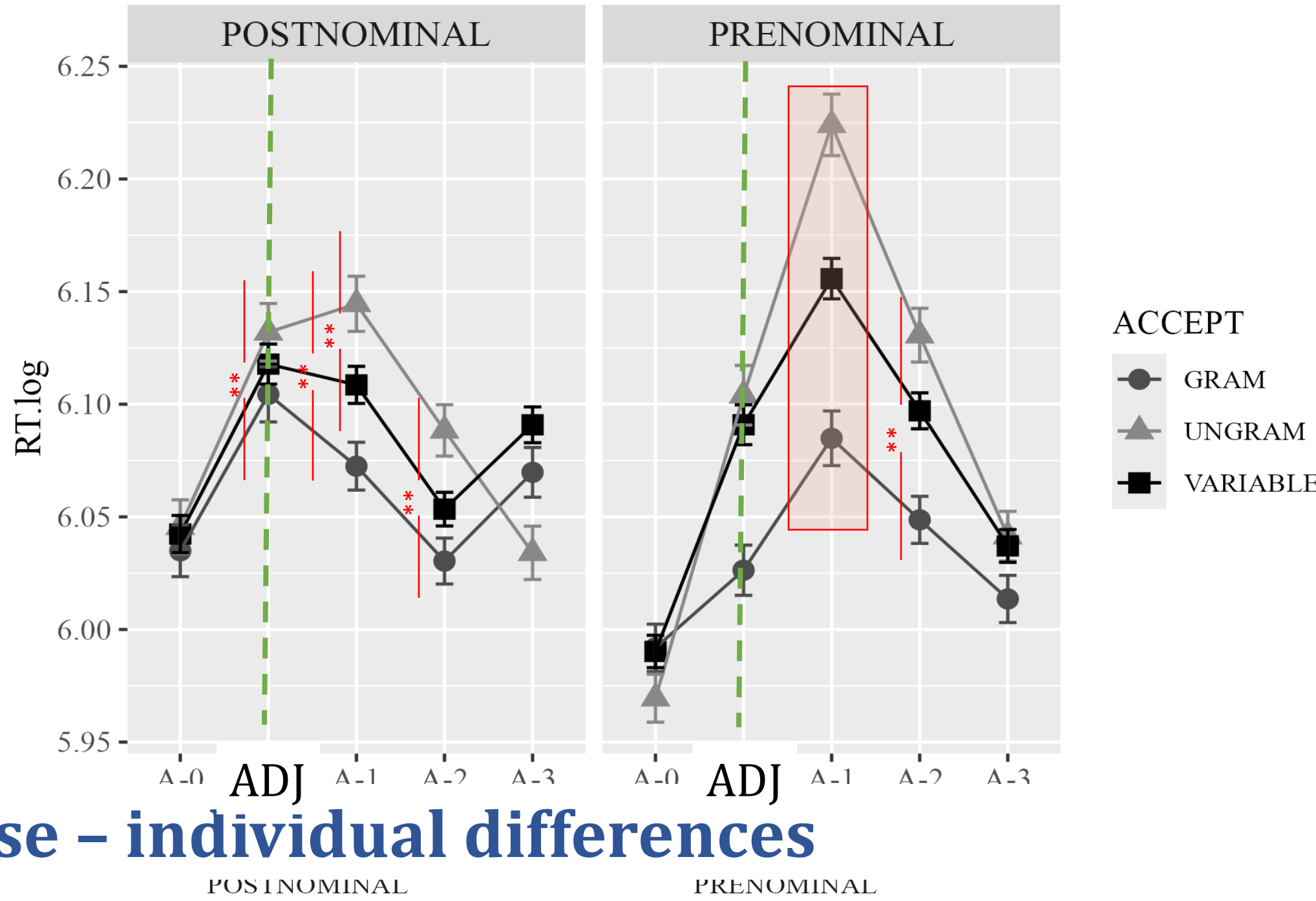


Individual differences measures

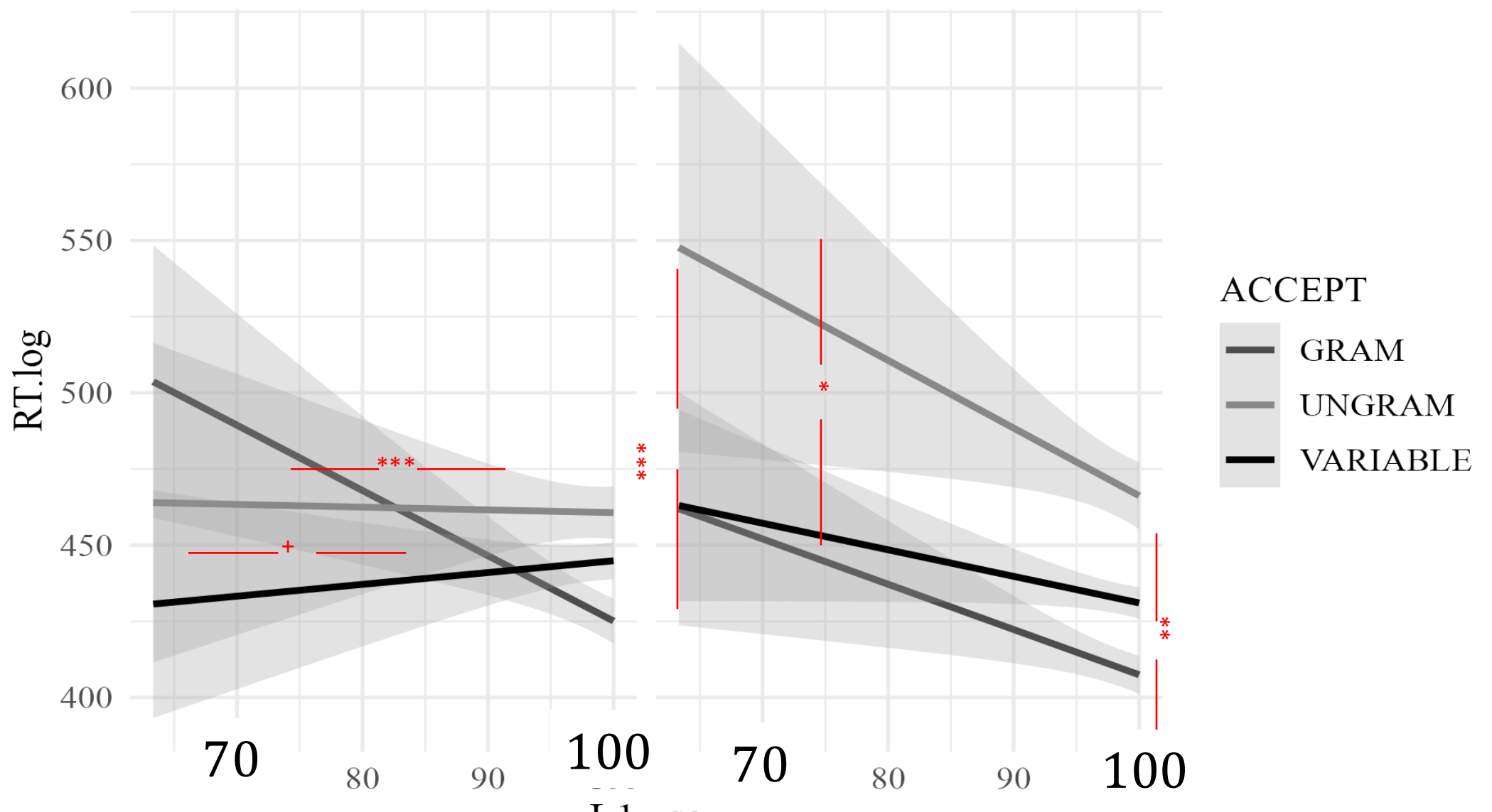


RESULTS

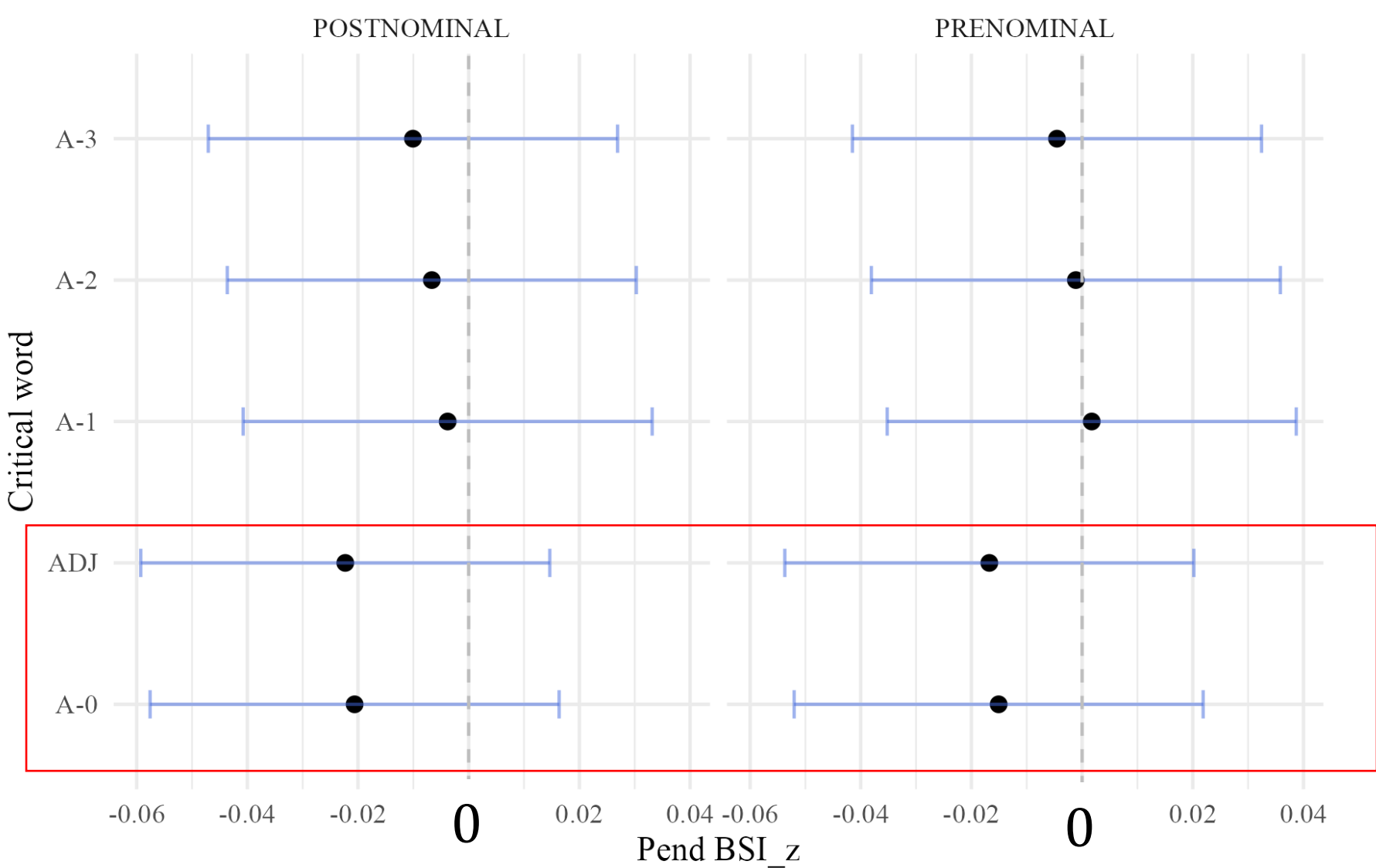
Self-paced Reading (results controlled by length of words)



L1 use – individual differences



Proactive control – individual differences



DISCUSSION

- Our results show that sentences including adjectives in variable position are read equally to fixed-adjectives sentences **ONLY FOR POSTNOMINAL SENTENCES**
- Sentences with variable adjectives in prenominal position are slower to read than fixed adjectives sentences in A-1
- **Use of Spanish** seem to predicts these differences: higher uses of Spanish = **longer RTs** for sentences with variable adjectives in prenominal position
- Proactive control have equal effect for prenominal and postnominal sentences

References

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