

The role of proactive control during online adjective processing in Spanish L2

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INTRODUCTION

This study examines the factors influencing the processing of features linked to ADJECTIVE POSITION in Spanish.

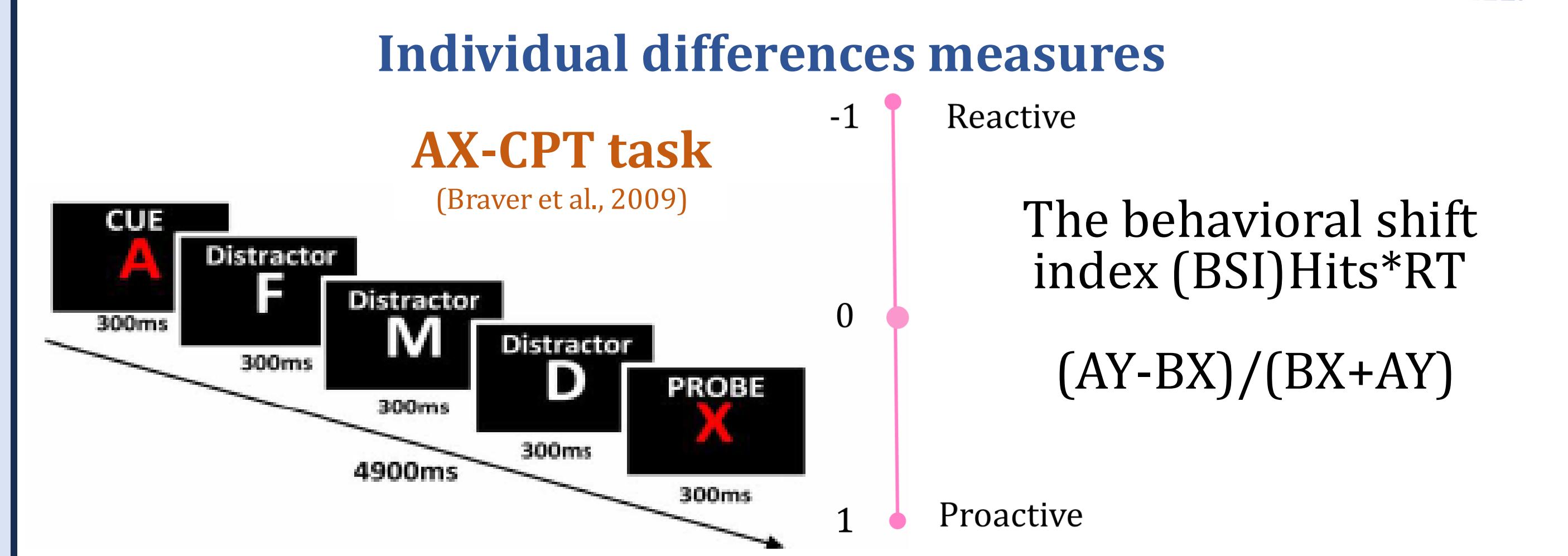
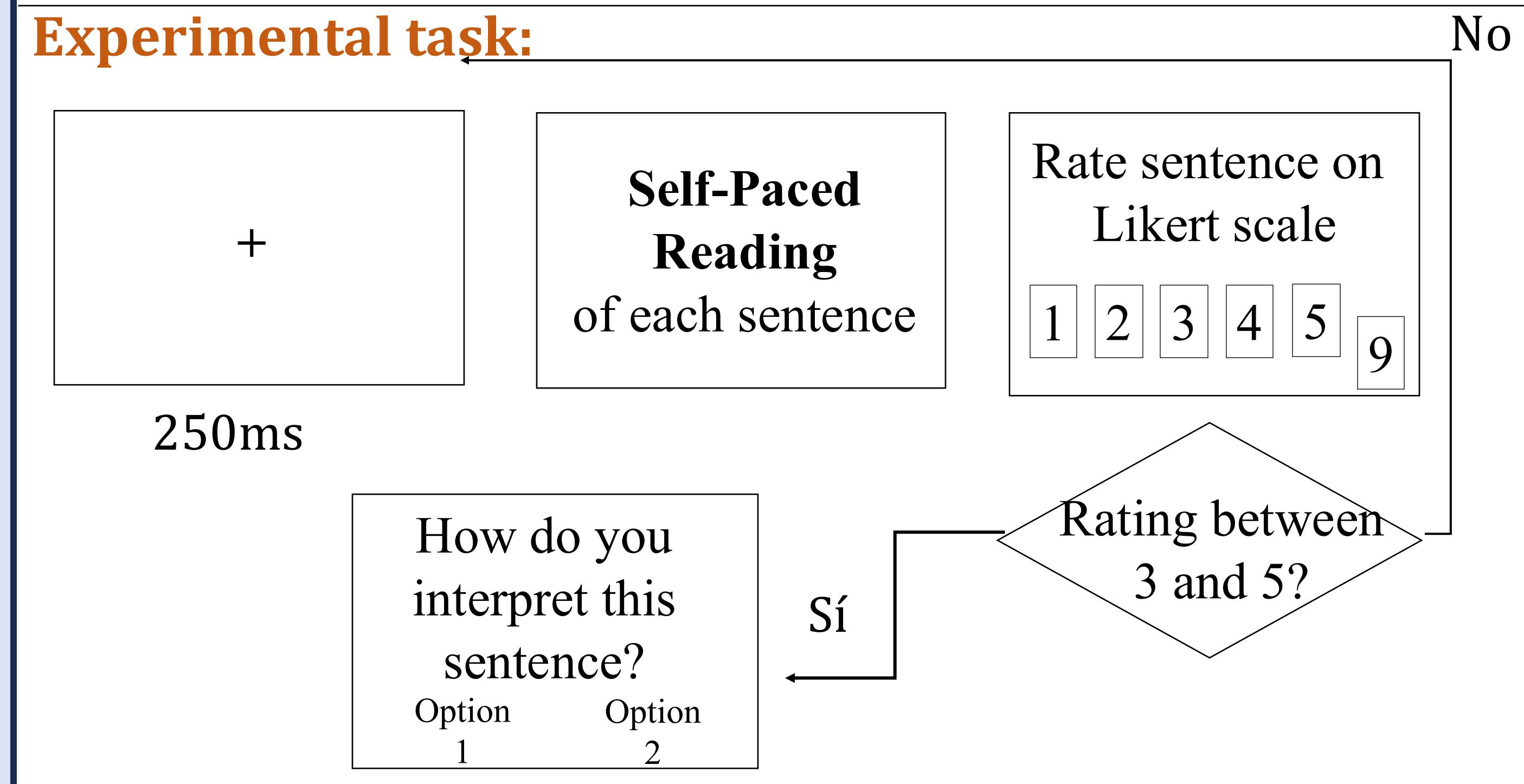
Previous studies report that learners face CHALLENGES in learning the formal characteristics of adjectives until they attain an advanced level, especially when their FIRST LANGUAGE has a fixed adjective order (ENGLISH) as compared to those similar to Spanish (ITALIAN) (Guijarro-Fuentes et al., 2009).

We expect differences in the pattern of reading between adjectives in the PRENOMINAL (marked) and POSTNOMINAL (unmarked) positions. We also expect to find PROACTIVE CONTROL to be a significant modulator of the reading effects, as more proactive control strategies predict shorter RTs when reading sentences in the prenominal position, as they are more challenging.

METHOD

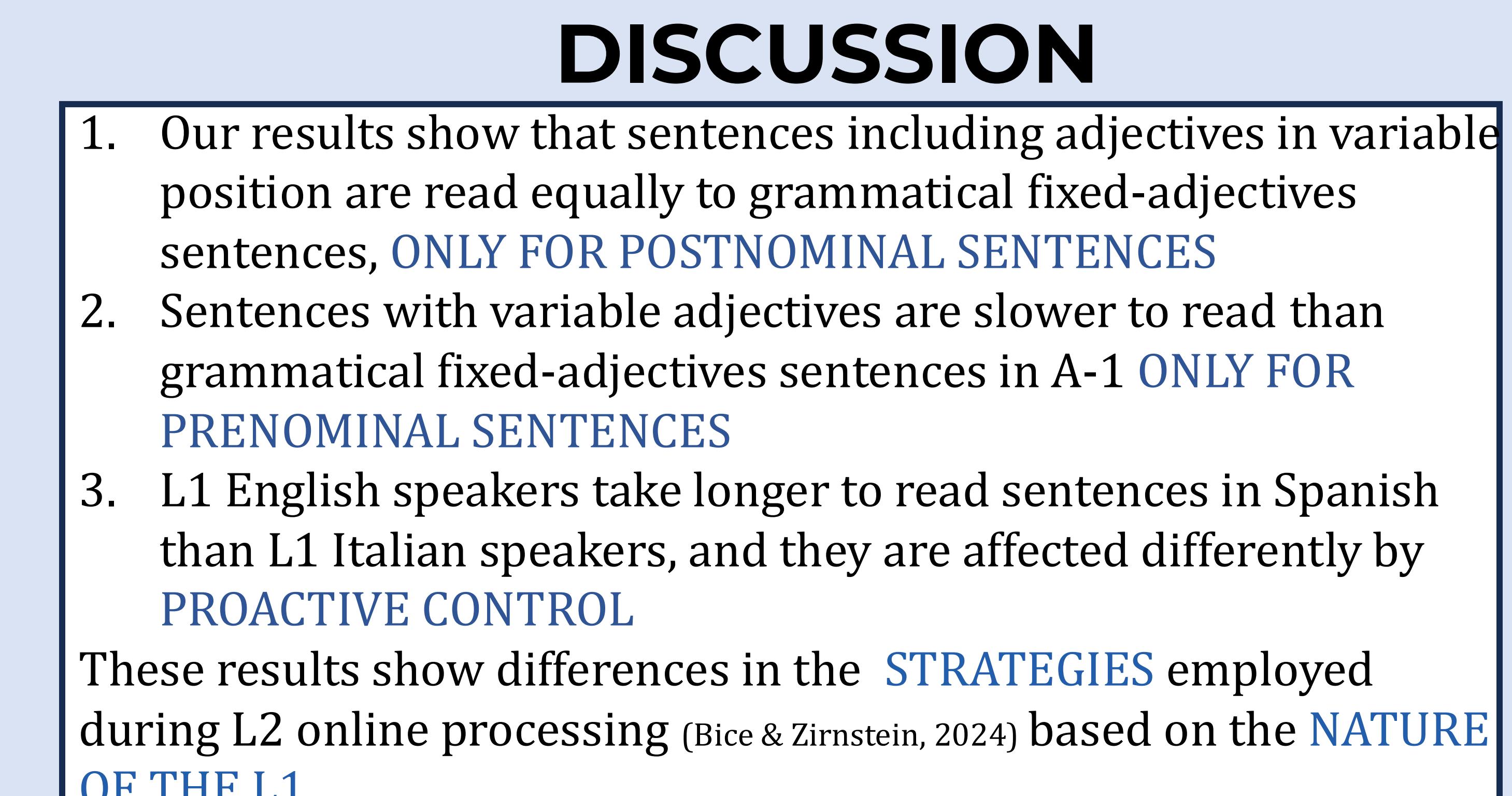
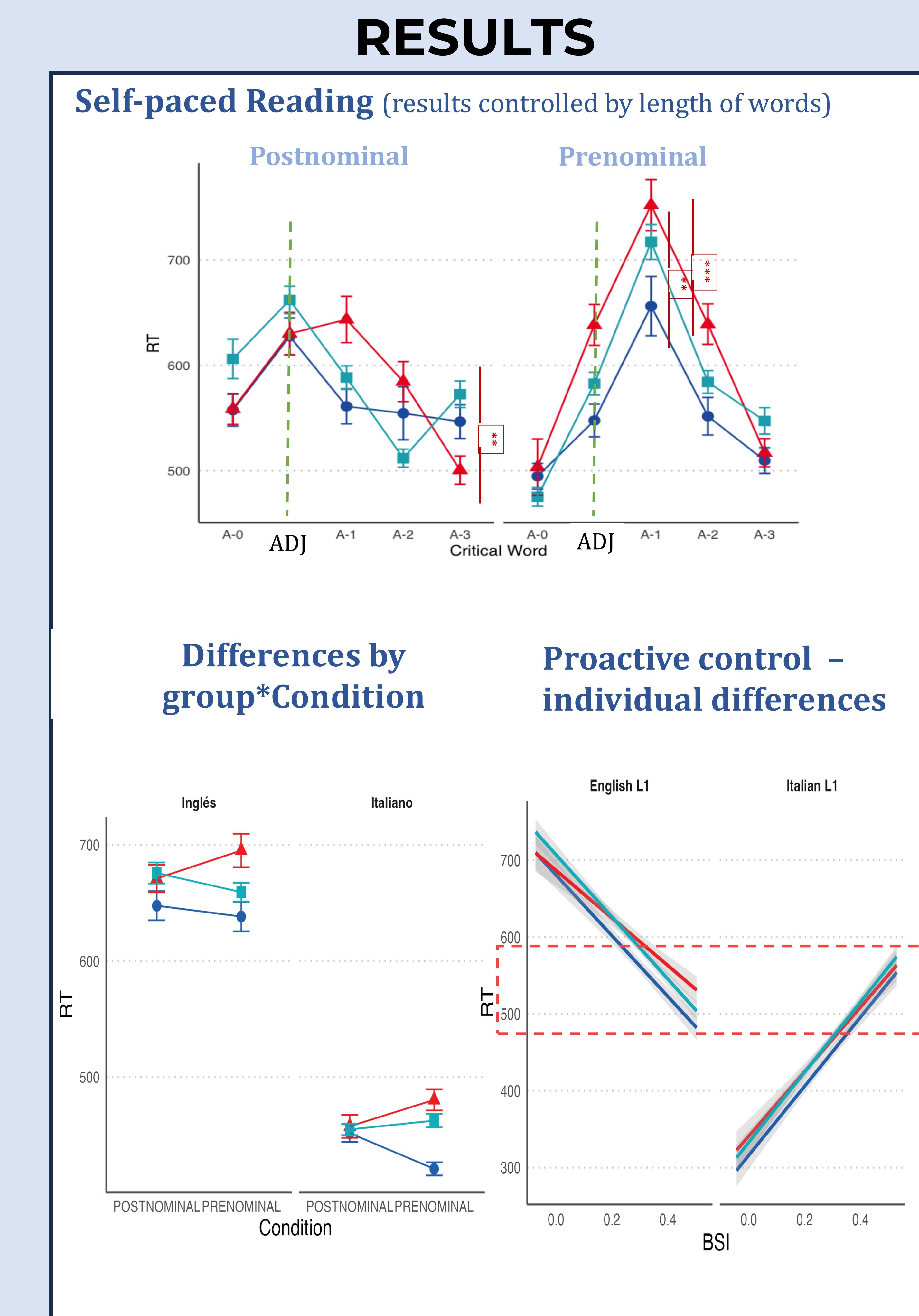
Participants: 78 L2/Ln Spanish with L1 English (n=45) or Italian (n=33); 18-35 years old ($M = 28.86$; $SD = 6.44$)					
Spanish	Speak (yo)	Read (yo)	Write (yo)	Use of Spanish	DELE
L2 (n=53)	10.48(7.01)	11.93(6.03)	12.05(.53)	32,02% (32%)	ENG = 44.23 (5.93) IT = 45 (6)
L3 (n=17)	14.77(7.44)	15.24(6.91)	15.65(6.95)	9,31% (19%)	ENG = 36.25 (13.04) IT = 45.92 (6.37)
L4 (n=8)	-	17.74(6.35)	20.5(5.36)	3,81% (11%)	ENG = 41(9.89) IT = 45.3 (3.34)

Materials	Prenominal		Postnominal	
Adjective in variable position (k = 15)	Las valientes mujeres frenaron el ataque de ayer. <i>The brave women stopped the attack yesterday.</i>		Las mujeres valientes frenaron el ataque de ayer. <i>The economic sanctions affected the country.</i>	
Adjective in fix position-grammatical (k = 15)	El presunto asesino fue capturado por la policía. <i>The alleged murderer was captured by the police.</i>		Las sanciones económicas afectaron al país. <i>The economic sanctions affected the country.</i>	
Adjective in fix position-ungrammatical (k = 15)	*Las económicas sanciones afectaron al país. <i>*The assassin presunto was captured by the police.</i>		*El asesino presunto fue capturado por la policía. <i>*The economic sanctions affected the country.</i>	



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