

Language context flexibly modulates language control mechanisms.

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1 Abstract

2 Does a bilingual's language environment, whether L1- or L2-dominant, modulate their use of
3 language control mechanisms in speech production? The language-switching task (LST)
4 typically assesses two indices of language control: asymmetric switch costs, where switching
5 into L1 incurs greater costs than switching into L2, and reversed language dominance, where
6 L1 becomes slower than L2. We ask if these measures are affected by the language context a
7 bilingual is in and whether the relative balance between languages is sustained after mixed
8 language use. Polish-English unbalanced bilinguals performed the LST in L1- and L2-
9 dominant contexts. We found that language context modulated the magnitude of language
10 control indices. In the L1-dominant context, we replicated effects typical for unbalanced
11 bilinguals: asymmetric switch costs and reversed language dominance. However, in the L2-
12 dominant context, the asymmetry of switch costs was reversed, and the reversed dominance
13 effect decreased. Furthermore, to measure if language dominance reversed from their usual
14 dominance and whether the language context modulations were sustained after leaving,
15 participants named pictures in pure language blocks before (pre-LST) and after (post-LST)
16 LST. Initially, unbalanced bilinguals exhibited a typical L1 dominance (i.e., faster L1 than L2
17 naming) which reversed during LST and remained reversed post-LST. The modulations of
18 bilingual language control suggest that immediate language context flexibly shapes control
19 mechanisms for effective production, with adjustments persisting beyond the L1- or L2-
20 dominant context. Thus, mechanisms of control are highly adaptive to contextual demands
21 rather than being solely determined by the language proficiency or other fixed speaker traits.

22 Introduction

23 Due to increasing globalization, many bilinguals who have learned one native language
24 at home and a second language later in life reside in bilingual environments. While living in
25 the country of origin, other languages, such as English as a lingua franca, are also present in
26 the environment through entertainment, advertising, social media, international business, etc.
27 Consequently, even if bilinguals mainly use their dominant language and reside in a dominant
28 L1 context, they often change their language environment to a non-dominant L2 context. For
29 example, when going on holidays, having international business meetings/university classes,
30 or watching a movie in a foreign language, the second language of a bilingual becomes
31 temporarily dominant in their environment. An increasing body of research has shown that
32 bilinguals flexibly adapt their domain-general cognitive system depending on the language
33 environment they are in (for a review see Wodniecka et al., 2020). Surprisingly, most studies
34 focused on how the current language environment affects domain-general cognitive
35 mechanisms (e.g., Jiao et al., 2019, 2020; Kałamała et al., 2022; Timmer, Costa, et al., 2021;
36 Timmer, Wodniecka, et al., 2021; Wu & Thierry, 2013), rather than language control
37 mechanisms. To our knowledge, only two studies have examined the impact of the predominant
38 language context (L1 or L2) on mechanisms of language regulation during bilingual language control
39 contexts with two languages intermixed (Olson, 2016; Timmer, Christoffels, et al., 2018). To
40 address this gap, the present study aimed to better understand how bilingual language control
41 (BLC) mechanisms are impacted by a bilingual speaker's immediate linguistic context (i.e.,
42 predominantly L1 or L2 context) and to test how long-lasting this impact is (i.e., whether it
43 lingers after the context has changed).

44 Within the last decade, researchers have investigated how short-term changes in
45 immediate language use of a bilingual individual affect cognitive control mechanisms (for a
46 review, see Wodniecka et al., 2020). Most studies indicated that general cognitive control is
47 enhanced in a bilingual context (which involves language switching) compared to a
48 monolingual context (in which participants only use one language). This has been shown in a
49 wide variety of mechanisms, such as interference control (Wu & Thierry, 2013; Yang et al.,
50 2018), monitoring (Jiao et al., 2019; Timmer, Costa, et al., 2021; Timmer, Wodniecka, et al.,
51 2021), and reactive control (Timmer et al., 2019). Interestingly, similar effects can be triggered
52 even by short-term exposure to different language contexts. Kałamała et al. (2022)
53 demonstrated that neural efficiency increased not only after immersion in a bilingual context
54 but also after an exclusively second language context, while Han et al. (2023) found reduced

55 interference control after listening to a story in a bilingual context with languages alternated at
 56 the sentence level but not when languages are intermixed at grammatical and lexical levels
 57 (i.e., dense code-switching context). The available evidence suggests that short-term language
 58 contexts can modulate the ability to resolve non-linguistic conflict.

59 If language context flexibly modulates the domain-general cognitive mechanisms, it
 60 should also modulate indices of bilingual language control (BLC) mechanisms as they should
 61 directly reflect adjustments needed to adapt to the current environmental (i.e., context)
 62 demands. Two most commonly used task measures that have been considered as indices of
 63 language control are the reversed language dominance effect (sometimes also referred to as
 64 global slowing of L1), considered an index of global control, and the switch cost, which is a
 65 form of local control (Bobb & Wodniecka, 2013; Green, 1998). Unbalanced bilinguals who are
 66 more proficient in one language than in the other (e.g., Christoffels et al., 2007; Costa &
 67 Santesteban, 2004; Verhoef et al., 2009) typically show faster naming latencies in L1 than in
 68 L2 when only one language is present in an environment (75% of studies show this dominant
 69 language advantage in a meta-analysis by Goldrick & Gollan, 2023). However, when the same
 70 bilinguals are immersed in a bilingual context, requiring frequent switches between languages,
 71 their language dominance with slower naming latencies in L1 than in L2 (78% of studies in the
 72 meta-analysis by Goldrick & Gollan, 2023). According to Goldrick & Gollan - can best be
 73 explained by the inhibition account, which predicts that the more dominant language needs to
 74 be inhibited to enable production in the weaker language.¹ In line with this account,
 75 Christoffels et al. (2007) showed that the reversed language dominance effect, occurring in a
 76 bilingual context, sustains afterward when the bilingual has left the bilingual context and is in
 77 a pure language context. They argued that this finding was due to bilinguals' sustained
 78 suppression of the dominant language more strongly than the non-dominant one.

79 Next to the reverse language dominance, another index of language control frequently
 80 studied in bilingual speech production contexts is the switch cost. This effect refers to slower
 81 response latencies when switching to a new language compared to staying in the same language
 82 (Calabria et al., 2011; Meuter & Allport, 1999; Philipp et al., 2007; Timmer, Calabria, et al.,

¹ Previously, it has been suggested that both inhibition (Green, 1998) and threshold/activation accounts (Costa et al., 2006; Philipp et al., 2007) could potentially account for the revered language dominance. Goldrick and Gollan (2023) recently argued that the increased activation accounts is at odds with the finding that outside of mixing contexts, L2 speakers are slower in blocks of pure L2 naming. According to Gollan & Goldrick, one of the findings that makes this explanation unlikely is that if speakers can increase activation of their weaker language at will, then they should not struggle when producing their nondominant language even in pure-language contexts. Because they often do, this – according to Goldrick and Gollan – suggests that mechanisms other than just the increased activation of nondominant language are at play and responsible for the reversal of language dominance during switching and therefore inhibition seems the most plausible candidate for such a mechanism.

83 2018; Timmer et al., 2017b). The magnitude of the switch to L1 and L2 has been suggested to
84 be modulated by a bilingual's language balance, specifically how proficient they were in their
85 L2 (compared to the L1). Unbalanced bilinguals, with a lower L2 proficiency, showed a larger
86 switch cost to L1 than L2 (i.e., asymmetric switch cost), while balanced bilinguals, equally
87 proficient in their languages, show similar switch costs to L1 and L2 (i.e., symmetric switch
88 cost) (Costa et al., 2006). However, unlike in the case of the reverse dominance effect, the
89 switch cost patterns (i.e., symmetric or asymmetric) have not been consistently found
90 throughout studies (Gade et al., 2021b) and have been explained by both the inhibition (Green,
91 1998) and threshold account (Costa et al., 2006) or persisting activation account (Philipp et al.,
92 2007). The inhibition account (Green, 1998) posits that increased inhibition of the dominant
93 language is necessary when naming in the non-dominant language. This inhibition carries over
94 to the subsequent trial, leading to a larger switch cost when returning to the dominant language.
95 In contrast, naming in the dominant language requires less inhibition of the non-dominant
96 language, resulting in a smaller cost when switching back. Alternatively, activation-based
97 accounts propose that the non-dominant language requires stronger activation to compete with
98 the dominant language (e.g., Philipp et al., 2007). Consequently, residual activation from the
99 non-dominant language carries over, making it more difficult to re-engage the dominant
100 language, leading to larger switch costs.

101 We propose that factors other than language proficiency may impact the language
102 switch cost that the immediate language context may be a key player. Language context can be
103 considered a factor within *language mode* used in psycho-social and linguistic research
104 (Grosjean, 2001) – as revealed in two earlier studies (Timmer, Christoffels, et al., 2018;
105 Timmer et al., 2017a). Language mode refers to the social and linguistic environment of a
106 speaker, such as the form and content of a message, which in turn affect the activation level of
107 each language (Green & Abutalebi, 2013; Grosjean, 2001), and has been shown to modulate
108 bilingual language control (Timmer et al., 2017a). We focus on language context, one of the
109 factors of *language mode*, which refers to the languages individuals use in a bilingual's direct
110 surroundings at a specific moment in time (Timmer et al., 2017a). It emphasizes the relative
111 presence of each language within a specific environment (Olson, 2016; Timmer, Christoffels,
112 et al., 2018). In a study by Timmer and colleagues (2019), the effect of context was tested on
113 language- and non-linguistic task switching. The language switch cost was reduced following
114 a bilingual language context (i.e., naming pictures in two languages) compared to a
115 monolingual language context (i.e., naming pictures in a single language). Moreover, this study
116 also showed that domain-general task switch costs diminished after a bilingual, compared to a

monolingual context. The reduction of the engagement of cognitive control in speech production is also supported by other studies that focused on the impact of monolingual versus bilingual language contexts on domain-general cognitive mechanisms (Timmer, Wodniecka, et al., 2021; Wu & Thierry, 2013). Thus, existing empirical evidence suggests that language context can modulate the magnitude of language switch costs.

While bilinguals can be in purely monolingual or bilingual situations, their bilingual environment can also be dominantly in one language, with the other only present occasionally. Is the context effect only triggered by a bilingual compared to single language exposure, or is it also sensitive to the proportion of languages present in a bilingual environment? The two previous studies mentioned earlier (i.e., Olson, 2016; Timmer, Christoffels, et al., 2018) have examined the impact of being predominantly in the L1 or L2 context on bilingual language regulation in mixed language contexts . Both provided evidence that L1- vs. L2-dominant language context modulates BLC indices. However, in Olsen's (2016) study, language context (the proportion of L1 to L2 trials) was confounded with the proportion of switch/repeat trials, complicating the interpretation of the results as driven solely by the language context. This limitation has been addressed by a study by Timmer and colleagues (2018), which revealed that the Dutch-English unbalanced bilinguals placed in a predominantly L1 context show a typical pattern of language control engagement for this population (Christoffels et al., 2007): a reversed language dominance and symmetric switch costs. Importantly, bilinguals placed in a predominantly L2 context showed a different pattern of indices related to language control: equal language dominance ($L1 = L2$ naming speed, thus no reversed dominance anymore) and asymmetric switching costs with larger costs of switching to L2 than L1. Interestingly, the reversed language dominance increased the longer participants were in the L1 context. In the L2 context, L1 and L2 were equalized, and over time, L1 became faster than L2, reversing the control pattern compared to the L1 context.

The present study investigated whether language control mechanisms remain stable within an individual or flexibly adjust to environmental demands and, if so, how long-lasting these adaptations are. We first ask whether unbalanced Polish-English bilinguals reveal a typical L1 dominance before engaging in the LST. Language dominance was measured with naming speed in pure L1 and L2 blocks preceding the LST. Second, we asked whether immediate language context impacts the mode in which bilingual language control operates in a situation that requires frequent switching between languages. To this aim, we measured how L1- versus L2-dominant context modulated indices of BLC: reversed language dominance and (a)symmetry of switch costs in LST with naming mainly in L1 or L2. Third, we investigated

151 how long the context-induced modulation of cognitive control remains. More specifically, we
152 tested whether changes in the reversed language dominance measure, which can also be
153 measured when only one language is present in a block, continued after bilinguals had left the
154 bilingual contexts.

155 We predicted that our unbalanced Polish-English bilinguals would reverse their typical
156 language dominance (L1 faster than L2) during bilingual language contexts.

157 Crucially, based on the findings by Timmer et al. (2018), we predicted that during the
158 bilingual contexts, the L1- vs. L2-dominant contexts would further modulate reversed language
159 dominance and the asymmetric switch costs. We predicted a reversed language dominance
160 effect and asymmetric switch costs ($L1 > L2$) in the L1-dominant context compared to the
161 absence of reversed language dominance and reversed asymmetric switch costs ($L1 < L2$) in
162 the L2-dominant context. Notably, unlike Timmer et al. (2018), we manipulated language
163 context within the same participants instead of between participants. Furthermore, we predicted
164 that differences in this global measure (i.e., reversed language dominance) in diverse, bilingual
165 contexts with a different proportion of L1 and L2 present are also sustained after leaving the
166 environment. We also explore the dynamic adaptations throughout the LST contexts as Timmer
167 et al. (2018) revealed the reversed language dominance increased when longer present in the
168 L1-dominant context, albeit not for the L2-dominant context. This would suggest that
169 bilinguals are not only impacted by having two languages present in their environment but that
170 subtle differences in the relative presence between the two languages also modulate BLC
171 mechanisms, which are sustained for some time. Furthermore, we carefully consider how
172 global control (e.g., reversed language dominance) and local control (e.g., asymmetric switch
173 costs) relate to each other and provide novel ways of exploring the complex pattern of results
174 and how they relate to inhibition and activation frameworks of bilingual language control.

175 Methods

176 Participants

177 Ninety Polish-English bilinguals took part in the study. Two participants resigned after
178 the first session and data from an additional six were unusable due to missing voice recordings
179 or other procedural errors. Five participants were excluded based on their low accuracy (see
180 *Data analysis* for details), yielding a final sample of seventy-seven subjects (60 females, 11
181 males, 6 non-binary, age $M=22.52$, $SD=3.40$, range 18-33). All participants were native Polish

182 speakers who learned English as their second language. To participate in the experiment, they
 183 had to declare intermediate to high proficiency in English and obtain at least 18/25 points on
 184 the General English Test by Cambridge Assessment (mean score = 22.45, SD = 1.99). During
 185 the experiment, English proficiency was additionally assessed using LexTale (mean score =
 186 75.91%, SD = 11.39%; Lemhöfer & Broersma, 2012). In addition, participants completed a
 187 questionnaire in which they rated their proficiency for all languages they indicated to know.
 188 They rated their proficiency in reading, writing, listening, speaking, and the level of a foreign
 189 accent. They also gave information on their daily use of all languages and the age at which they
 190 started to learn each. Detailed information on the participants' proficiency, age of acquisition,
 191 and daily use of languages can be found in Table 1. All participants gave written consent to
 192 participate in the study. The Ethics Committee of the XXX approved the study concerning
 193 experimental studies with human subjects.

Table 1. Language experience of the study's participants. Information on self-rated proficiency, language learning, and daily use of languages is given for all languages participants declared to know. L1 always refers to Polish and L2 to English. L3 and L4 were various languages (incl. German, French, Italian, Spanish, Russian, Czech, Japanese, Korean, Norwegian, Latin, and Esperanto). Not all the participants reported knowing an L3 or L4 – in those cases, the means are reported for the number of subjects that have declared knowing an L3 and/or L4.

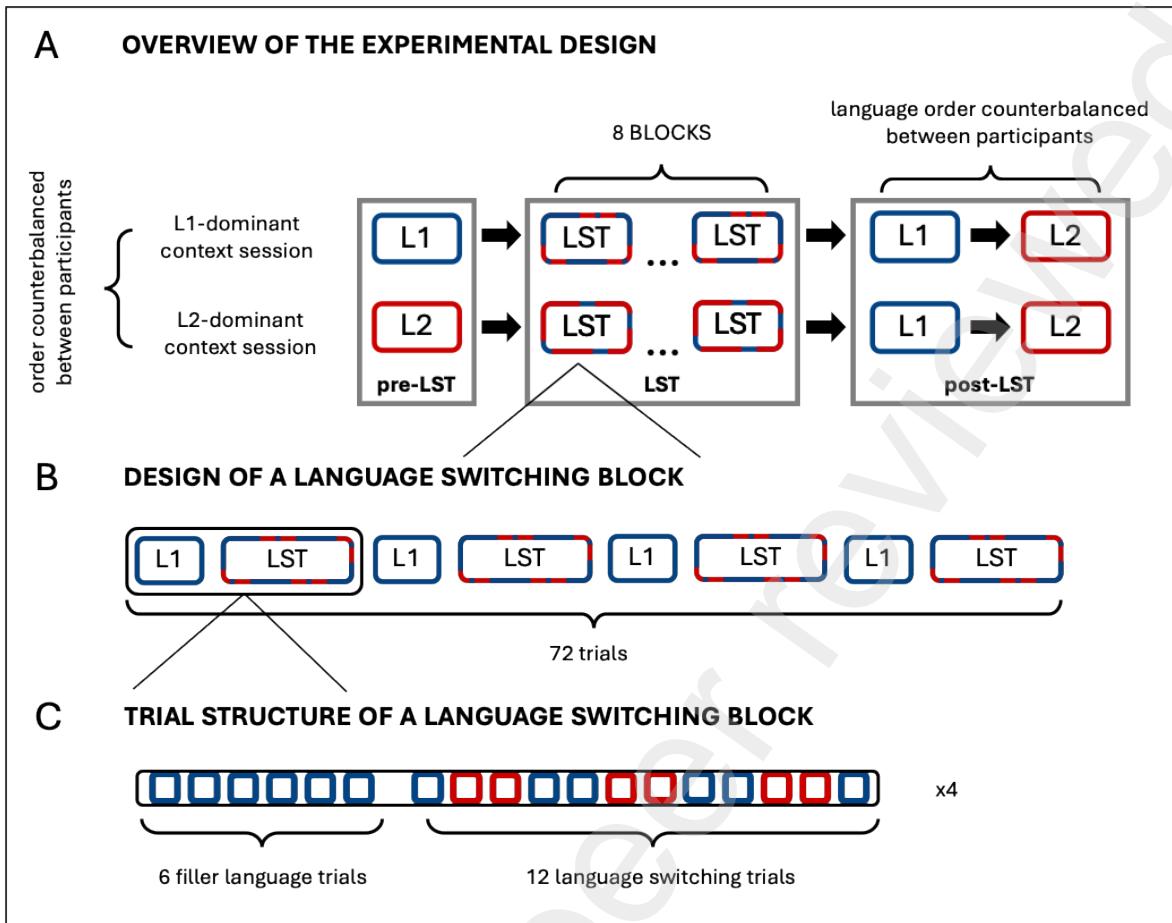
Language	L1 (Polish)	L2 (English)	L3 (various)	L4 (various)
N	77	77	67	32
Self-rated proficiency (1-10)				
<i>Reading</i>	9.79	8.31	4.69	3.87
<i>Listening</i>	9.74	7.90	3.85	3.55
<i>Writing</i>	9.49	7.38	3.29	2.39
<i>Speaking</i>	9.68	7.23	3.74	3.19
<i>Accent</i>	9.57	5.69	3.45	3.65
Language learning				
<i>Age of acquisition onset of learning</i>	0.00	5.81	14.27	16.50
<i>Age of acquisition: onset of using</i>	3.53	9.36	15.42	17.50
Daily use of languages				
<i>Passive</i>	57.88%	37.99%	3.45%	2.72%
<i>Active</i>	79.82%	18.38%	1.70%	0.78%

195 Procedure and design

196 The overview of the experimental design is presented in Figure 1A. All participants
197 completed two sessions of language naming corresponding to a different language context in
198 each session, L1- and L2-dominant sessions. Each session started with a pure language task
199 (pre-LST) in which all the pictures were to be named in one language (a different language in
200 each session with the order counterbalanced between subjects), followed by the language
201 switching task (LST), in which participants named pictures in two languages. LST consisted
202 of eight blocks. Following LST, participants completed a pure language task (post-LST) in two
203 blocks – in L1 followed by L2 or L2 followed by L1. After pre-LST and each block within
204 LST and post-LST, participants could take a short break.

205 The language context was manipulated in two ways: (1) by the filler trials in the LST
206 and (2) by the language of naming preceding the LST (pre-LST). The filler trials in LST were
207 used to introduce the L1- or L2-dominant context in LST. This was done by having six single-
208 language filler trials named in the context-congruent language followed by 12 experimental
209 trials (repeat and switch) equally divided between both languages. This sequence was repeated
210 four times within a block. Thus, two-thirds of trials in each LST context consisted of naming
211 in one language. Second, the language of naming in pre-LST block was always synchronized
212 with the language of the filler language trials within LST blocks. The order of languages in the
213 post-LST blocks was counterbalanced between participants, but the order was kept the same
214 for each participant in both sessions. An overview of the language switching block is presented
215 in Figures 1B and 1C.

216 For each picture, in all picture naming tasks, the language of naming was indicated by
217 the color of a frame around the picture – red or blue – which appeared on the screen
218 simultaneously with the picture. The assignment of color to language was counterbalanced
219 across participants. In each trial, a fixation cross was presented (jittered between 800-7800ms
220 with a mean of 2861ms), followed by the presentation of the picture and the frame, which
221 appeared simultaneously on the screen and was displayed for 2,500ms.



222

223 **Figure 1. Summary of the experimental design.** The top panel (A) presents the overview of the entire
 224 experimental design over the two experimental sessions, where each box corresponds to one picture
 225 naming task. The middle panel (B) presents a design of an example language-switching block in the
 226 L1-dominant context where each box corresponds to a series of filler trials ($n=6$) or language-switching
 227 trials ($n=12$). The bottom panel (C) presents the trial-by-trial structure of a series of filler trials followed
 228 by the switching trials (each color corresponds to a different language).

229

230 Materials

231 Each picture naming task – pre-LST, LST, and post-LST – consisted of 72 pictures. For pre-
 232 LST, 144 pictures from the MultiPic database (Duñabeitia et al., 2018) were divided into two
 233 sets of 72 items matched on name agreement in Polish, lexical frequency, and picture
 234 familiarity. Each picture set was presented in one session only, counterbalanced between
 235 participants for L1 and L2. For the LST task and the two post-LST blocks, another set of 144
 236 pictures from the CLT database (Haman et al., 2015; Wolna et al., 2022) were divided into two
 237 sets of 72 items matched on name agreement and mean naming latency in Polish, age of
 238 acquisition, lexical frequency, morphological complexity of the pictures' dominant names,
 239 imageability, goodness of depiction, image agreement, and image familiarity ratings for each
 240 picture. Each session used one of the picture sets, and the sets were counterbalanced between

241 participants in the two sessions (i.e., language contexts). Each picture was repeated ten times
 242 (eight times in LST blocks and twice in post-LST blocks). From the 72 pictures used for LST,
 243 48 pictures were used for the experimental switching trials, so they occurred in both languages
 244 and 24 pictures were used for the filler trials, which were always named in the context-
 245 congruent language.

246 Data analysis

247 Participant's responses in the picture naming task were manually coded and naming
 248 latencies were decoded using Chronset – an automated tool to detect speech onset (Roux et al.,
 249 2017). We excluded items with overall accuracy lower than 50% (24 out of 72 pictures in pre-
 250 LST and 8 out of 48 pictures in LST and post-LST). After the exclusion of these items, we
 251 excluded data from participants whose overall accuracy was lower than 50% in either or both
 252 L1 and L2 during the pre-LST pure language task (2 subjects) or lower than 75% in any of the
 253 conditions in the LST task (further 3 subjects) or post-LST task. This yielded a final sample of
 254 77 participants included in the statistical analyses.

255 The accuracy of the participant's responses was assessed using the following criteria:

- 256 (i) correct response – target name or a synonym (93.70% of all responses);
- 257 (ii) incorrect response – unrelated words (0.73% of all responses);
- 258 (iii) incorrect language (1.02% of all responses);
- 259 (iv) no response – including inaudible or partial responses impossible to decode (4.37%
 260 of responses);
- 261 (v) hesitations or other sounds produced before the actual response (0.23% of all
 262 responses).

263 All incorrect responses (i.e., categories (ii)-(v), see above), as well as the after-error trials
 264 (i.e., trials that immediately followed incorrect responses from categories (ii)-(iv)), were
 265 excluded from the naming latencies analyses. We also excluded all responses faster than 350ms
 266 (0.14% of all the correct responses). Filler trials were not included in any statistical analyses.

267 All analyses were conducted using linear mixed-effect models implemented in the *lme4*
 268 package in R (Bates et al., 2015). Post-hoc comparisons were conducted using *emmeans*
 269 package (Lenth, 2023). Prior to the analysis, the dependent variable – *Naming latency* – was
 270 log-transformed to reduce the skewness of the data. All categorical predictors were dummy
 271 coded using a sum contrast: *Language* (L1 = -0.5. L1 = 0.5); *Language context* (L1 = -0.5. L2
 272 = 0.5); *Trial type* (repeat = -0.5. switch = 0.5), and the continuous variable of Trial number was
 273 demeaned. In all analyses, we first fitted the maximal model and then identified the best

274 random-effects structure following the recommendation of Bates et al. (2018). Below, we
 275 operationalize the research questions. The data and code necessary to reproduce the statistical
 276 analyses are available at
 277 https://osf.io/84stp/?view_only=24ded32ece214ddda02b291b90ebb297.

278 1. What is the baseline language dominance in unbalanced Polish-
 279 English bilinguals?

280 Before evaluating the effects of language context and language switching paradigm on
 281 language dominance, it is helpful to establish the *baseline*, typical language dominance in a
 282 given sample of bilinguals (Goldrick & Gollan, 2023), for us unbalanced Polish-English
 283 bilinguals. To this aim, we checked the effect of *Language* (L1 vs L2) in pre-LST in which all
 284 pictures were named in only one language in each session (each participant named pictures in
 285 L1 in one session and L2 in another). The dependent variable in this analysis was the *Naming*
 286 *latency* in L1 and L2 during the first pre-LST block. The model used in this analysis was fitted
 287 using the following formula:

$$288 \quad Naming\ latencies \sim Language + (I + Language | Subject) + (I + Language | Item)$$

289 2. Does bilingual language control flexibly adapt to a bilingual's language
 290 context (L1- vs. L2-dominant)?

291 To test this research question, we checked whether the *Language context* (L1-dominant
 292 vs. L2-dominant language context) affects the interaction between *Trial type* and *Language*
 293 (which is indicative of the asymmetry of switch cost), as well as the effect of *Language* (which
 294 is indicative of language dominance). Additionally, including the *Trial number* in the model
 295 allowed us to test whether the effects of interest remain stable over time. The dependent
 296 variable in this analysis was the *Naming latencies* measured in LST. The final model was fitted
 297 using the following formula:

$$298 \quad Naming\ latencies \sim Trial\ type * Language * Language\ context * Trial\ number + \\ 299 \quad (I + Trial\ type + Language + Language\ context + Trial\ number | Subject) + \\ 300 \quad (I + Trial\ type + Language + Language\ context + Trial\ number | Item)$$

301 3. Is the reversed language dominance sustained after leaving the L1- or L2-
 302 dominant context?

303 In this analysis, we explored whether language switching may induce a long-lasting
 304 change in the balance between languages that persists even after the language switching task
 305 is over and when participants have moved into a single language context. Furthermore, we

306 explored whether the specific language context modulations continued after participants had
 307 left the language switching context.

308 To test whether the reversed language dominance established during LST results in a
 309 lingering change in activation between languages (e.g., an L2 after-effect; refs) and whether
 310 the language context modulates this after-effect of language switching, we looked at the
 311 differences in naming latencies in L1 and L2 in the first and second pure language blocks *after*
 312 the language switching task and consider the language context of the session. Note that any
 313 given participant completed the first and second post-LST blocks in the same language order
 314 in both sessions. Language order was counterbalanced across the participants. Thus, the effect
 315 of *Language* constitutes a between-subject variable in this analysis: To test how language
 316 context can modulate the language dominance measured in after-LST blocks, we fitted two
 317 separate models – one for the first after-LST block and one for the second after-LST block –
 318 using the same formula:

$$\begin{aligned} 319 \quad \text{Naming latencies} &\sim \text{Language} * \text{Language context} + \\ 320 \quad (1 + \text{Dominant Language} | \text{Subject}) + \\ 321 \quad (1 + \text{Language} * \text{Language context} | \text{Item}). \end{aligned}$$

322 Results

323 1. What is the baseline language dominance in unbalanced Polish-English
 324 bilinguals?

325 The analysis of the naming latencies in the pre-LST pure language block – named in L1 or
 326 L2 – showed a significant effect of *Language* ($\beta = 0.115$, $t = 6.945$). This effect confirms that
 327 bilinguals in our sample were language-unbalanced as they were faster in naming pictures in
 328 L1 (951ms) than in L2 (1197ms).

329 2. Does bilingual language control flexibly adapt to a bilingual's language
 330 context (L1- vs. L2-dominant)?

331 The results of the analysis of naming latencies in LST are summarized in Table 2 and Figure
 332 3. We found a significant effect of *Language*, with slower naming latencies in L1 (1071ms)
 333 than in L2 (945ms), which shows that during LST our participants reversed their language
 334 dominance (compared to pre-LST), as typically found in the literature (Goldrick & Gollan,
 335 2023). We also found a significant effect of *Trial type*, with slower naming latencies in switch
 336 (1074ms) than repeat trials (943ms), as well as a significant effect of *Language context* with

337 overall slower naming latencies in the L2-dominant context (1058ms) than in the L1-dominant
 338 context (957ms). We also found a significant effect of *Trial number*, showing that participants
 339 named pictures faster as the experiment progressed.

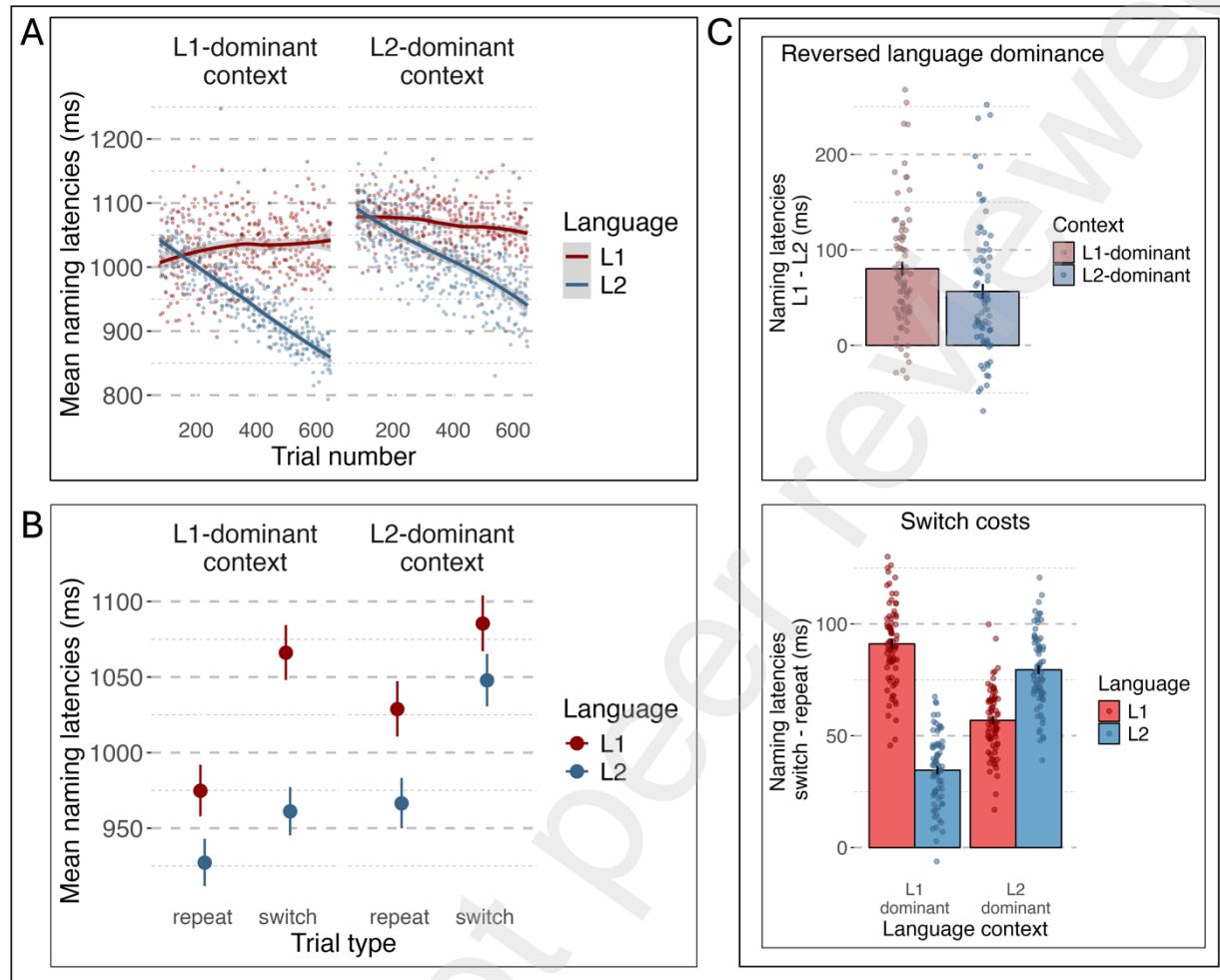
340 What is more, we found a significant interaction between *Language* and *Trial type*, i.e., the
 341 effect of *asymmetry of the switch costs*, with larger switch costs when switching to L1 (75ms;
 342 $\beta = 0.072$, $z = 18.284$, $p < 0.001$) than to L2 (57ms; $\beta = 0.058$, $z = 14.666$, $p < .001$). Crucially,
 343 we also observed a significant interaction between *Language context* and *Language*: the
 344 *reversed language dominance* (i.e., slower naming times in L1 than in L2) was larger in the
 345 L1-dominant context (76ms; $\beta = 0.077$, $z = 7.455$, $p < .0001$) than in the L2-dominant context
 346 (51ms; $\beta = 0.049$, $z = 4.743$, $p < .0001$; see Figure 2C). The reduction of the reversed language
 347 dominance in the L2- compared to L1-dominant context is driven primarily by a slow-down in
 348 L2 (L1-context = 944ms; L2-context = 1006ms; $\beta = -0.064$, $z = -6.078$, $p < .0001$) rather
 349 than in L1 (L1-context = 1019ms; L2-context = 1057ms; $\beta = -0.036$, $z = -3.428$, $p = .0006$).
 350 Interestingly, this 2-way interaction was qualified by *Trial number*, suggesting that the effects
 351 of language context on language dominance became larger as the experiment progressed (see
 352 Figure 3B).

353 Finally, we observed a three-way interaction between *Language context*, *Language*, and
 354 *Trial type*, indicating that in addition to the reversed dominance effect, the language context
 355 also modulated the asymmetry of switch costs (see Figure 3C). In the L1-dominant context, the
 356 switch cost was larger to L1 (91ms) than to L2 (34ms; $\beta = 0.054$, $z = 8.792$, $p < .001$) whereas
 357 the pattern was reversed in the L2-dominant context with larger switch costs to L2 (57ms) than
 358 to L1 (81ms; $\beta = 0.027$, $z = 4.456$, $p = .027$). To better understand the three-way interaction, we
 359 conducted two follow-up post-hoc pairwise comparison analyses which showed that both types
 360 of contexts exerted the same impact for L1 and L2 repeat trials (naming latencies were longer
 361 in L2-dominant context both for L1 (53ms, $\beta = -0.54$, $z = -4.94$, $p < .001$) and for L2 (46ms,
 362 $\beta = -0.04$, $z = -3.78$, $p < .001$) and there was no difference in the magnitude of these effects
 363 (7ms, $\beta = -0.013$, $z = -2.05$, $p = .170$). However, in the switch trials, the impact of context
 364 (i.e., slower naming in L2- compared to L1- context) was greater for L2 trials (89ms, $\beta = -0.09$,
 365 $z = -7.88$, $p < .001$) than L1 (22ms, $\beta = -0.02$, $z = -1.65$, $p < .01$; 67ms, $\beta = 0.07$, $z = 11.19$
 366 $p < .001$). What is more, we have also found that for the repeat trials, there was a larger
 367 difference between L1 and L2 in the L2 context (62ms) than in the L1 context (48ms, $\beta = -0.013$,
 368 $z = -2.051$, $p = .040$), while for the switch trials, there was a larger difference between
 369 L1 and L2 in the L1 context (105ms) and the L1 context (38ms, $\beta = -0.068$, $z = -11.190$, $p < .001$).
 370

Table 1. Results of a linear mixed-effect model evaluating predictors of naming latencies in the language switching task. The model was run on log-transformed data (see *Data analysis* for details of data transformations). The ms scale presented in the table is based on an exponential transformation of the model's predictions.

	Naming latencies		Std. Error	<i>t</i> -value	<i>p</i> -value
	log(RT)	ms*			
(Intercept)	6.914	1006.07	0.015	453.344	<.001
Language	-0.062	-64.68	0.010	-6.182	<.001
Trial type	0.065	63.29	0.003	19.629	<.001
Language context	0.050	49.02	0.010	4.861	<.001
Trial number	-0.017	-16.84	0.002	-6.895	<.001
Language x Trial number	-0.032	-32.52	0.001	-24.354	<.001
Trial type x Trial number	0.000	0.43	0.001	0.324	.746
Language context x Trial type	-0.001	-1.22	0.001	-0.932	.352
Language x Trial type	-0.013	-13.46	0.004	-3.076	.002
Language x Language context	0.028	27.40	0.004	6.391	<.001
Trial type x Language context	0.004	4.47	0.004	1.032	.302
Language x Trial type x Trial number	0.005	4.78	0.003	1.817	.069
Language x Language context x Trial number	0.019	18.64	0.003	7.133	<.001
Trial type x Language context x Trial number	0.001	1.30	0.003	0.492	.623
Language x Trial type x Language context	0.081	78.36	0.009	9.366	<.001
Language x Trial type x Language context x Trial number	-0.007	-6.88	0.005	-1.295	.195

371 * The statistical analyses were run on log-transformed RTs, hence the original estimates are
 372 presented on the model's scale - log(RT). However, for simplicity in grasping the magnitude



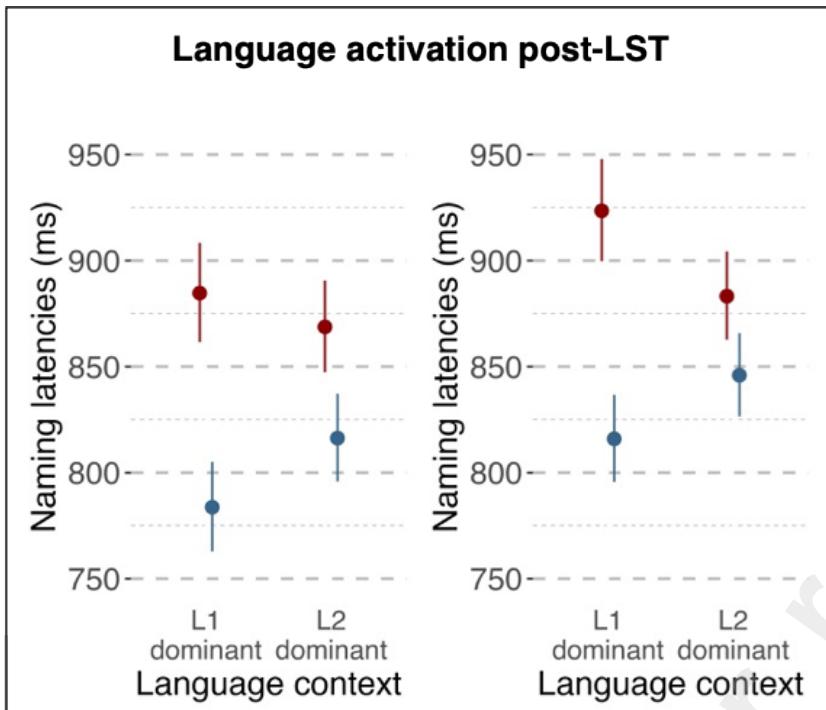
373 of the effects, we also include the estimates on the millisecond scale, which were obtained by
 374 applying an exponential transformation to the estimates from the model.

375 **Figure 2. Results of naming latencies analysis in the language switching task.** Panel (A)
 376 presents predicted mean naming latencies corresponding to switch and repeat trials in L1 and
 377 L2 in two different language contexts. Panels (B) presents the influence of the trial number on
 378 the naming latencies corresponding to switch and repeat trials in L1 and L2 in two different
 379 language contexts. Panel (C) presents switch costs and language dominance indices in the two
 380 different language contexts.
 381

382 3. Is the reversed language dominance sustained after leaving the L1- or L2-
 383 dominant context?

384 In the analysis of the after-effects of switching – i.e., naming latencies in the first and
 385 second language, during post-LST blocks *following* the language switching task – we observed
 386 the continuation of the reversed language dominance effect (1st after-LST block: *Language*; β
 387 = -0.092, $t = -2.801$; 2nd after-LST block: $\beta = -0.083$, $t = -2.742$) with slower naming latencies

388 in L1 (1st after-LST block: 878ms; 2nd after-LST block: 903ms) than in L2 (1st after-LST block:
389 800ms; 2nd after-LST block: 831ms). Neither in the first or second post-LST blocks is there a
390 main effect of *Language context*, however, in both, we found a significant interaction between
391 *Language context* and *Language* (1st after-LST block: $\beta = 0.059$, $t = 2.294$; 2nd after-LST block:
392 $\beta = 0.081$, $t = 2.298$; Figure 2B). Pairwise comparisons revealed that in both post-LST
393 following L1-dominant context, participants were slower to name pictures in L1 than in L2
394 (i.e., reversed language dominance; 1st post-LST block: L1 = 885ms, L2 = 784ms; $\beta = 0.121$,
395 $z = 3.318$, $p < .001$; 2nd post-LST block: L1 = 923ms, L2 = 815ms; $\beta = 0.124$, $z = 3.567$, $p <$
396 $.001$). In contrast, in post-LST blocks following the L2-dominant context, there was no
397 reversed language dominance with similar latencies in both languages in both the first and
398 second post-LST blocks (1st post-LST block: L1 = 869ms, L2 = 816ms; $\beta = 0.034$, $z = 1.843$,
399 $p = .065$; 2nd post-LST block: L1 = 883ms, L2 = 8146ms; $\beta = 0.043$, $z = 1.353$, $p = .176$). The
400 difference in the reversed language dominance after the two contexts was driven by
401 significantly slower L2 naming in the L2- than L1-context (L1-context = 784ms; L2-context =
402 816ms; $\beta = -0.041$, $z = -2.199$, $p < .05$) while naming in L1 was the same across contexts (L1-
403 context = 885ms; L2-context = 869ms; $\beta = 0.018$, $z = 1.008$, $p = .3133$). However, in the 2nd
404 post-LST block we observed a reverse effect, with no differences in response latencies in L2
405 between the L2- and L1 contexts (L1-context = 816ms; L2-context = 846ms; $\beta = -0.036$, $z = -$
406 1.869, $p = .062$) but significantly slower response in L1 in the L1- than L2-context (L1-context
407 = 923ms; L2-context = 883ms; $\beta = 0.045$, $z = 2.300$, $p = .021$). The results of these analyses
408 are presented in **Figure 3**.



409

410 **Figure 3. Results of language balance during pure blocks after L1- or L2-dominant**
 411 **language context.** The mean naming latencies in L1 and L2 pure blocks of picture naming in
 412 the first and second pure blocks post-LST – represent language balance after language
 413 switching. All panels present the means derived from the statistical models. Whiskers
 414 correspond to the standard errors.

415

Discussion

416 We examined whether bilingual language control (BLC) mechanisms remain relatively
 417 stable within an individual or flexibly adjust depending on the relative presence of a given
 418 language in a context. We focused on two indices of BLC typically assessed in studies
 419 employing the language switching paradigm: reversed language dominance—assumed to
 420 reflect global language control—and asymmetry of switch costs—taken as a manifestation of
 421 local control. We used manipulation of immediate language context (predominantly L1 vs. L2)
 422 to contribute to the ongoing discussion of to what extent these indices of control work in tandem
 423 or dissociate under different experimental demands. We first investigated whether our group
 424 of presumably unbalanced Polish-English bilinguals indeed showed a language (un)balance
 425 with an advantage for the L1 over L2. Next, we investigated how global and local language
 426 control adapts to language contexts and whether they vary with respect to the relative language
 427 presence in participants' dominant vs. non-dominant language. Finally, we explored whether
 428 changes in language balance induced by different bilingual language contexts persisted after
 429 bilinguals had left those contexts. We found that our group of bilinguals was indeed unbalanced

430 and showed a dominance for L1 (over L2) in pure language context (pre-LST). In the bilingual
 431 contexts of LST, this L1 dominance reversed to dominance for L2 (over L1). Importantly, we
 432 found that the magnitude of this dominance reversal was modulated by the relative presence of
 433 each language in the L1/L2-dominant contexts, with a greater reversed dominance in the L1-
 434 dominant than in the L2-dominant context. We also found that the language context also
 435 affected the asymmetry of switch costs, with larger switch costs observed for the language most
 436 present in the language context, which indicates that the context manipulation also results in
 437 changes in local control engagement. Finally, the global control adjustments during diverse
 438 language contexts (L1- and L2-dominant) lingered in subsequent monolingual contexts. We
 439 discuss the detailed results below through the lens of three research questions.

440 1. What is the baseline language dominance in unbalanced Polish-English
 441 bilinguals?

442 The baseline language activation was assessed via picture naming latencies in pure
 443 language blocks at the beginning of the experiment (for a discussion of the advantages of this
 444 method over different ways of balance assessment, see Casado et al., 2020; Goldrick and
 445 Gollan, 2023). The results confirmed that our bilinguals were more faster in naming pictures
 446 in L1 than in L2, thus L1-dominant. Our participants were late unbalanced bilinguals because
 447 they started learning their L2 (i.e., English) around the age of six and could use the language
 448 for basic level communication after the age of nine. Their L2, English - a modern lingua franca,
 449 was passively present in almost 40% and actively in nearly 20% of their typical daily language
 450 interactions. However, despite their relatively frequent L2 language use, they were L1-
 451 dominant, which was confirmed by faster picture naming in L1 (Polish) than in L2 (English)
 452 by 246 ms in the single language blocks before the language switching task. This magnitude
 453 of L1 dominance over L2 is in line with other studies on Polish unbalanced bilinguals (Casado
 454 et al., 2022; Wolna et al., 2024a) and consistent with the findings on unbalanced bilinguals
 455 worldwide (Christoffels et al., 2007; Gollan et al., 2014; Hanulovà et al., 2011; Jylkkä et al.,
 456 2018; Massa et al., 2020; Mosca & Clahsen, 2016; Zhang et al., 2020).

457 2. Does bilingual language control flexibly adapt to a bilingual's language
 458 context (L1- vs. L2-dominant)?

459 ***Global language control, as indexed by the reversed language dominance, was affected by***
 460 ***the immediate language context.*** Our L1-dominant participants reversed their language
 461 dominance during LST, as demonstrated by slower naming in L1 than in L2. The finding that

462 during language mixing (e.g., in language switching tasks), naming in L1 can become slower
 463 than naming in L2 has been observed frequently (e.g., Christoffels et al., 2007; Costa et al.,
 464 2006; Costa & Santesteban, 2004; Tarłowski et al., 2013; see Bobb & Wodniecka, 2013 and
 465 Declerck et al., 2020 for reviews; Goldrick & Gollan, 2023). It is typically explained as
 466 occurring due to inhibition of the whole L1 system (Green, 1998) although alternative
 467 explanations have also been put forward (Branzi et al., 2014; Costa et al., 2006; Verhoef et al.,
 468 2009). Crucially, we revealed that the reversed language dominance is prominent in the L1-
 469 dominant context but diminished in the L2-dominant context. This difference between contexts
 470 is driven by a greater slowdown for L2 (62 ms) than L1 (38 ms) in the L2-dominant compared
 471 to the L1-dominant context (see Figure 3C). This is in line with the results of Timmer and
 472 colleagues (2018), who observed that unbalanced Dutch-English bilinguals not only reduced
 473 the reversed language dominance in the L2-dominant context but disappeared, resulting in both
 474 languages being equally fast. The difference between contexts came from a slowdown for L2
 475 (60 ms) while L1 speeded up (57 ms) in the L2- compared to the L1-dominant context. The
 476 slower naming of L2 in the L2-dominant context (compared to the L1-dominant context)
 477 suggests that L2 is less available when it is more omnipresent in the environment. The greater
 478 presence of L2 in the environment can make the L2 behave as if it is a bilingual's dominant
 479 (instead of the non-dominant) language (Timmer et al., 2018). It is likely that inhibition is
 480 applied to the L2 when L2 is more present.

481 A bilingual's time spent in one of the dominant LST contexts increased the reversed
 482 language dominance effect and showed no signs of saturation even after 600 trials (see Figure
 483 3A). The findings are consistent with Timmer et al. (2018) observed a more substantial change
 484 in global language control between the language contexts compared to the current study. This
 485 may have been caused by the fact that the induced dominance of language contexts was likely
 486 stronger, as it required more responses in one language (83 % compared to only 67% in the
 487 current study). The interesting dynamic developing throughout the present experiment came
 488 from an overall speedup throughout the experiment, which can be due to both training and
 489 picture repetition effects as participants got familiar with the task and each picture was repeated
 490 eight times (four times within each language) within LST. Crucially, the rate at which L2
 491 naming gained speed through the LST task was higher in the L1- than in the L2-dominant
 492 context. In contrast, L1 naming does not show a picture repetition benefit in the L1- and L2-
 493 dominant contexts and even slows down slightly in the L1-dominant context (see Figure 3A).

494 The underlying mechanism could possibly be that L1 is the dominant language with faster
 495 naming at baseline, it could gain less from repetition than L2. This is in line with evidence that

496 repetition priming in L2 tends to be larger than in L1 (Kleinman & Gollan, 2018; Francis,
 497 Augustini & Sáenz, 2003) – an effect that has proposed to be driven by overall lower baseline
 498 activation level of the non-dominant language and hence a larger repetition benefit (Kleinman
 499 & Gollan, 2018; Gollan et al., 2008; Gollan et al., 2011; Christoffels et al., 2016).

500 However, this is unlikely the whole story because, in our data, L1 did not benefit from
 501 repetition at all (not just less than L2)—and crucially, L1 was also significantly slower than L2
 502 overall. That L1 is slower than L2 suggests that the repetition benefits (due to training and/or
 503 picture repetition) are likely eliminated (canceled out) by global L1 inhibition (see Christoffels
 504 et al., 2016). As the same pictures are named in different languages we cannot exclude that the
 505 co-activation of the words in the two languages impacts naming in each language differently.
 506 The competitors from L2 might affect L1, while the competitors from L1 might not affect L2.

507 Overall, the results suggest that BLC must strike a balance in preventing interference
 508 between the two languages. Although the most notable effect is the control exerted over L1
 509 (the more automatized language), yet when L2 dominates in the context, some control must
 510 also be applied to L2 to facilitate occasional L1 naming. In other words, the greater presence
 511 of L2 in the language mixing environment can initiate control processes typically applied for
 512 the dominant language (see Timmer et al., 2018 for a similar suggestion that under the L2
 513 dominant environment, the L2 starts ‘behaving’ like L1). We propose that these processes
 514 likely involve inhibition that is applied to the L2 when participants are required to use the L2
 515 more but still switch between the languages.

516 ***Local control, as indexed by the asymmetric switch costs, is also affected by the***
immediate language context. Our results indicate that the language switch cost changed with
 517 changes in the language context. In the L1-dominant context, we found greater switch costs for
 518 L1 than L2, which is a typical finding for unbalanced bilinguals. (Philipp et al., 2007). In the
 519 L2-dominant context, the effect was reversed with greater switch costs for L2 than for L1,
 520 replicating previous results by Timmer and colleagues (2018), but this time using a within-
 521 subject design. Such a reversed asymmetrical switch cost has not only been found when
 522 bilinguals are in an L2-dominant context an L2-dominant context (Timmer, Christoffels, et al.,
 523 2018) but also when cultural faces (i.e., Asian and Caucasian) (Liu et al., 2019) or linguistic
 524 questions (Timmer et al., 2024) indicated which language to speak in, or when more
 525 preparation time was available (Ma et al., 2016; Verhoef et al., 2009). Our findings provide
 526 new evidence that the context in which a participant is switching can impact the size of the
 527 switch cost as well as the asymmetry of the switch cost between the dominant and non-
 528 dominant language. As such, we want to highlight that the likely differences between language

530 contexts across different studies may explain some of the inconsistent results within the
531 literature (Gade et al., 2021a, 2021b; Goldrick & Gollan, 2023).

532 Both inhibition (Green, 1998) and activation accounts (e.g., Costa et al., 2006) can
533 explain local control modulations reflected in asymmetric switch costs, they primarily focus
534 their interpretation on switch trials, as they explain the asymmetry through inhibition/activation
535 from the previous trial carrying over into the current switch trial – which has a greater impact
536 on L1 than L2. This potentially overlooks important effects observed in language-repeat trials.
537 An alternative perspective, proposed by Verhoef et al. (2009), highlights the L1-repeat-benefit,
538 suggesting that only L1-repeat trials fully benefit from extra preparation time and, therefore,
539 the asymmetric costs can turn symmetric. Building on this, we propose that changes to the
540 relative language activation should be considered across both repeat and switch trials to capture
541 the dynamics of control mechanisms fully.

542 To better understand the reversed asymmetry in the L1- and L2-dominant language
543 context, we examined the three-way interaction in a different way: We observed that on repeat
544 trials, naming latencies in L2-dominant contexts were overall slower compared to L1-dominant
545 contexts, and the magnitude of difference between L1 and L2 was similar across the context.
546 This suggests that repeat-trial performance is not directly modulated by language context and
547 that the presence of different L1/L2 ratios in the L1- and L2-dominant language contexts does
548 not significantly impact local control mechanisms in repeat trials. In contrast, switch trials
549 revealed a differential effect of language context, with a greater magnitude of the slowdown
550 for L2 in the L2- vs. L1-dominant context. Therefore, the switch-trial performance is directly
551 and immediately impacted by language context, which modulates the switch cost pattern
552 (interpreted as local control). Examining the three-way interaction in yet another way, we
553 observed a diminished reversed language dominance in the L2- compared to the L1-dominant
554 context for switch (but the reversed pattern for repeat) trials. The reduced reversed language
555 dominance in L2-dominant contexts for switch trials reflects the same pattern seen in the global
556 control modulations, suggesting that local control adjustments in relative language activation
557 on switch trials align with global control modifications. Consequently, the context-dependent
558 modulation in switch costs is likely driven by the global inhibition of L1 in both contexts,
559 accompanied by additional inhibition of L2 in the L2-dominant context. This may suggest that
560 inhibition plays a role in local control modulations. Next, reversed dominance modulation for
561 repeat trials (i.e., larger in L2- than L1-dominant context) shows that local and global control
562 are at least partially dissociable mechanisms with diverse relative language activation patterns.

563 3. Is the reversed language dominance sustained after leaving the L1- or L2-
564 dominant context?

Finally, we investigated whether the reversed language dominance effect, namely the slower naming in L2 than L1 often reported during language switching (LST), continues after bilinguals have left a mixed language environment. We expected to replicate a pattern reported in a seminal study by Christoffels et al. (2016) who observed a continuation of the reversed language dominance in pure language blocks following post-language switching. Our data replicated the pattern found by Christoffels et al., namely we found that the reversal of language dominance (observed initially under the language switching requirement) was further sustained in pure language blocks that followed. The effect persisted in a second pure language block when bilinguals have left the bilingual situation for an even longer period, for a total duration of around 20 minutes. Crucially, we found that not only the general pattern of language dominance reversal was sustained after the LST, but also the differences observed between the language contexts (i.e., L1-dominant or L2-dominant): similarly to the effects observed in LST, the reversed language dominance was still bigger after the L1-dominant context than after the L2-dominant context and maintained as such throughout both pure language blocks. This has implications for investigations of bilingual language use as language environment which directly precedes any experimental situation may fundamentally alter the results in any language task that follows.

In terms of the underlying mechanism, Christoffels et al. (2016) interpreted the continuation of the reversed language dominance in pure language blocks following post-language switching) as a consequence of sustained inhibition applied to L1 during LST that lingers after participants had left the mixed-language environment. They further supported the proposed mechanism of sustained inhibition with the finding that after LST naming in L1 was still slower than naming in L2, despite overall faster naming post-LST than pre-LST. The smaller benefits of repetition and training effects, with faster naming post-LST than pre-LST, could be explained by the fact that L1 can gain less from repetition than L2. However, this is unlikely to be the full explanation as L1 naming was still slower than L2 naming within the post-test. Thus, arguing for sustained inhibition as a crucial effect. Our results, showing that the reversed language dominance continues from LST to post-LST, albeit smaller in the L2-dominant context – confirm the suggestion of inhibition. In addition, here in the L2 context, inhibition was also applied to L2. The consequences of inhibition move beyond the situation that elicited inhibition in the first place and manifested by continuing in other environments.

596

597 **To conclude**, our study contributes to our understanding of how bilinguals flexibly
598 adjust their bilingual control mechanisms (global and local) to maneuver effectively and
599 efficiently between different language environments. We show that unbalanced bilinguals,
600 dominant in their L1, could move from a dominant language advantage (i.e., faster naming in
601 L1 than L2) to a reversed language dominance (i.e., slower naming in L1 than L2; global
602 control) or equal language balance (i.e., similar naming in L1 and L2) during bilingual language
603 contexts. These flexible adjustments to the cognitive control engagement continue after a
604 bilingual has left the bilingual context. This is crucial as it reveals that bilinguals can reverse
605 their language dominance after being in a bilingual language setting and can explain why a
606 recent meta-analysis revealed that only 75% of bilingual studies showed a dominant language
607 advantage (i.e., faster naming in L1 than L2) during picture naming in single-language blocks
608 (Goldrick & Gollan, 2023). Overall, we have revealed that the demands on language control in
609 bilinguals are not only modulated by stable features – like proficiency – but that they
610 dynamically adjust to the requirements of the linguistic environment of the speaker.

611 The finding that immediate language context (i.e., the relative presence of a bilingual's
612 language) alters language control mechanisms during speech production has important
613 implications for further developing theoretical frameworks about bilingual language control
614 that should account for this adaptive nature of control. Furthermore, including this factor, next
615 to proficiency in the theoretical models, may create a more coherent explanation of the existing
616 results. For example, theoretical frameworks considering either inhibition or activation predict
617 asymmetric switch costs (i.e., larger to L1 than L2). However, the literature does not report
618 consistently finding an asymmetric switch cost based on language proficiency. We propose
619 that the immediate language context in which participants are can have consequences for
620 subsequent language use, including the asymmetry of switch costs. Furthermore, global control
621 sustains over some time after leaving the immediate context. Therefore, theoretical models
622 should consider that language usage may impact bilingual language control in the longer term
623 than is typically considered. Furthermore, we carefully consider how both global control (i.e.,
624 reversed language dominance) and local control (i.e., asymmetric switch costs) are related to
625 each other and provide novel ways of exploring the complex pattern of results and how they
626 relate to either inhibition or activation frameworks of bilingual language control. We propose
627 that a full reversal of language dominance (i.e., global), the sustained effect after leaving the
628 context, and a greater reduction of L2 speeding up throughout the experiment in the L2- than
629 L1-dominant context may point towards inhibition. In contrast, asymmetric modulations (i.e.,

630 local control) can be explained by both accounts. Lastly, we propose that global and local
 631 control are influenced by each other but have separable origins.

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