

Semantic generalizations in native and L2 event perception: attentional and lexicalization biases

Annelot de Rechteren van Hemert¹, Marco Dieterich², David Klayton² & Melissa Kline³

¹University of Oxford

²University of Groningen

³Harvard University

Research Question

Do cross-linguistic differences influence how native and L2 speakers allocate attention and interpret novel verbs during motion event perception?

- **Attentional bias:** allocate attention to the aspect of the event that is typically encoded in language.
- **Lexicalization bias:** expectation of the type of information about the event that is typically encoded in a verb.

4. Preliminary Results

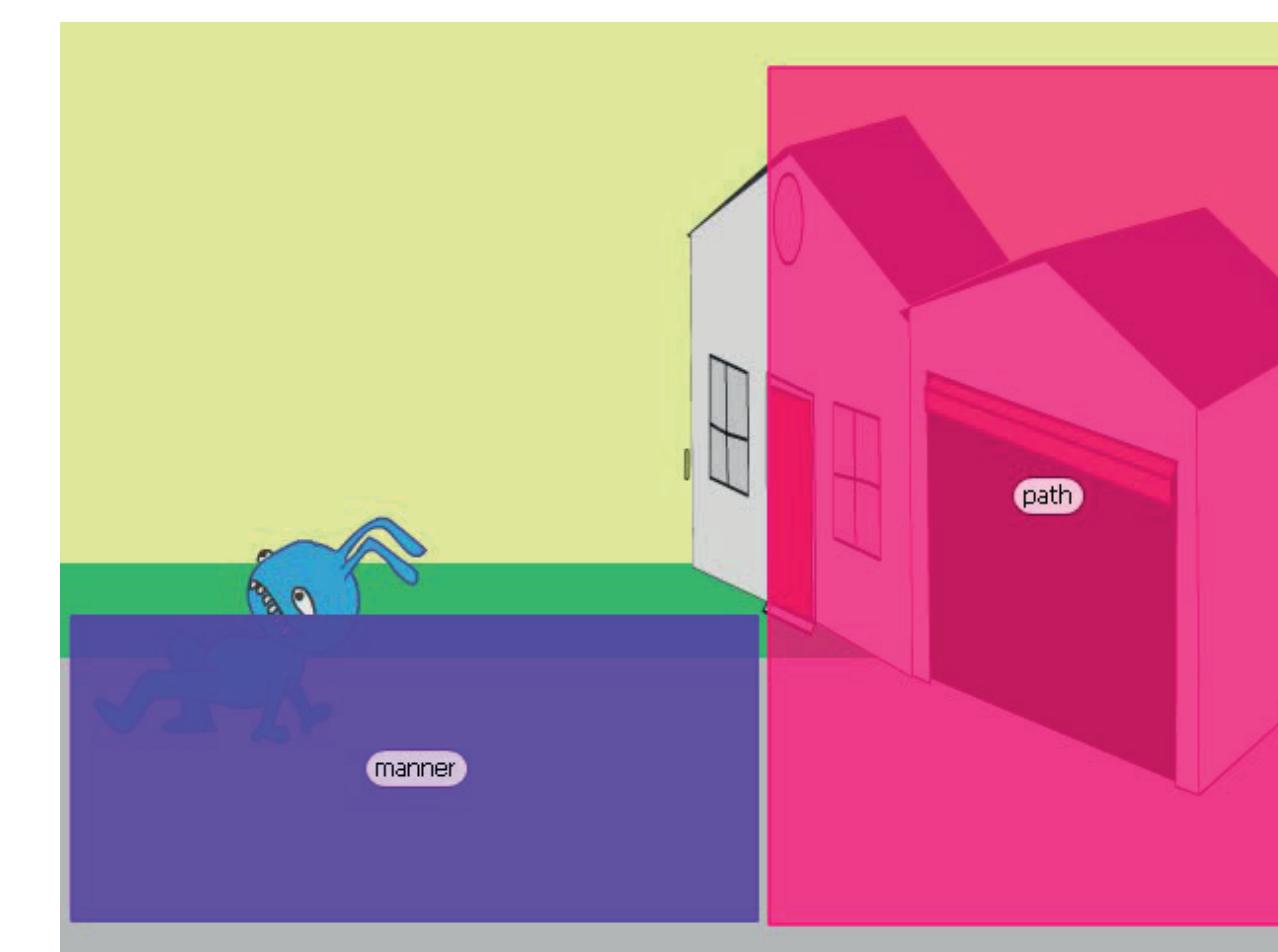


Fig 1. Example of AOI

1. Linguistic Background

(1) a.	Jan Jon FIGURE	rende ran MANNER	de kamer the room	binnen. in to PATH	
b.	Jean John FIGURE	est entré entered PATH	dans in	la chambre the room	en courant. running MANNER

Verb-framed languages typically encode path-of-motion (i.e. **what** is happening) in the verb, whereas satellite-framed languages typically encode manner-of-motion (i.e. **how** it is happening) in the verb.

Frequencies of verb type vary across languages [1].

Previous studies have shown that **1)** speakers of different languages exhibit attentional biases according to the typological pattern of their language [2] and **2)** L2 speakers can modify their L1 lexicalization bias in offline tasks [3]. Moreover, these biases are malleable and can change based upon linguistic input and experience [4].

2. Experiment

Participants

Group 1 (N=8): Native speakers of Dutch, tested in Dutch

Group 2 (N=8): Native speakers of Dutch, French = L2, tested in French

Group 3 (N=8): Native speakers of French, tested in French

1. Language questionnaire

- Linguistic background (i.e. measure French proficiency level)
- At least 30 min of French exposure for group 2

2. Task

- Motion event perception
- Eye-tracking → Attentional bias
- Forced choice judgment task → Lexicalization bias

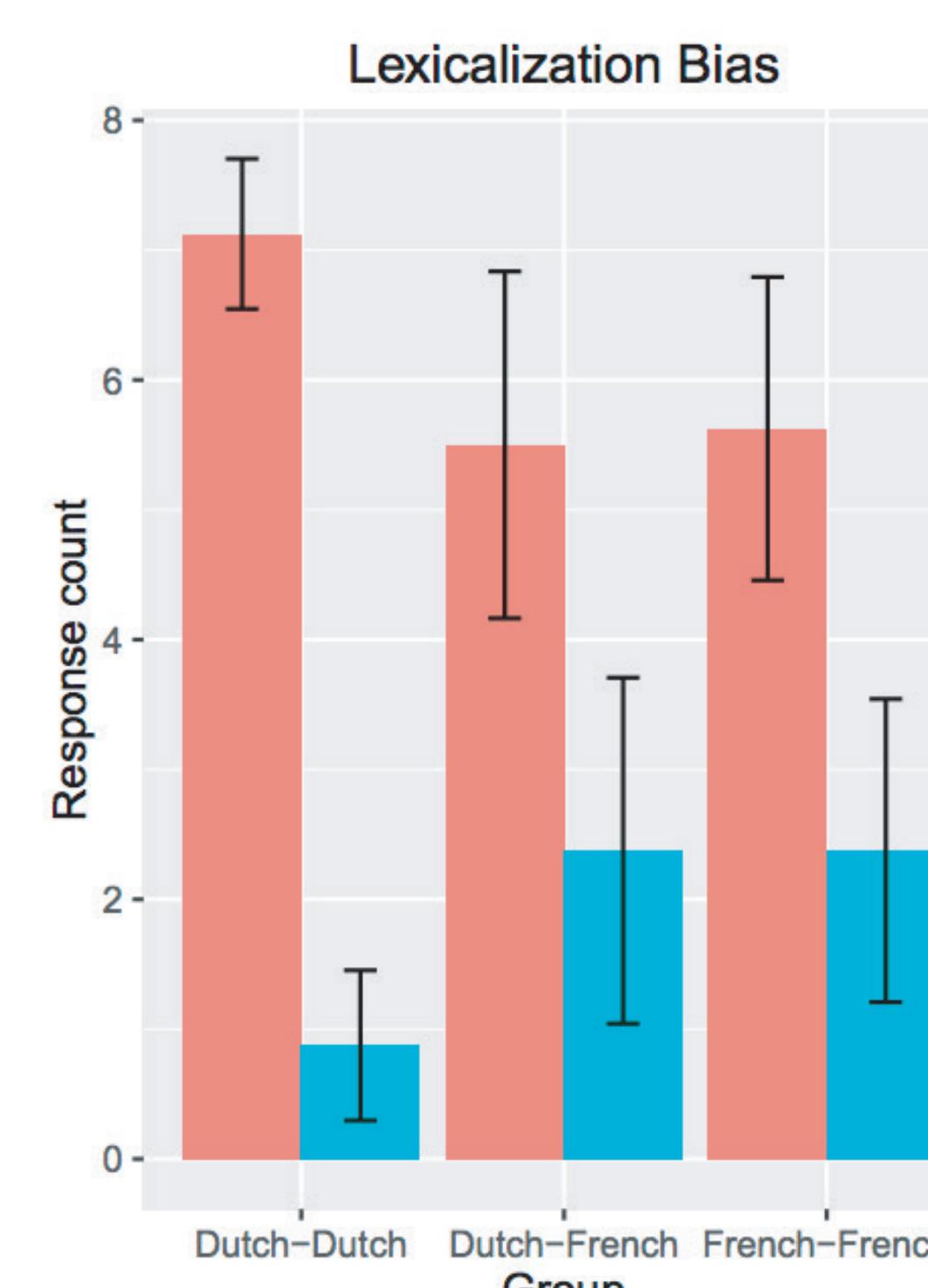
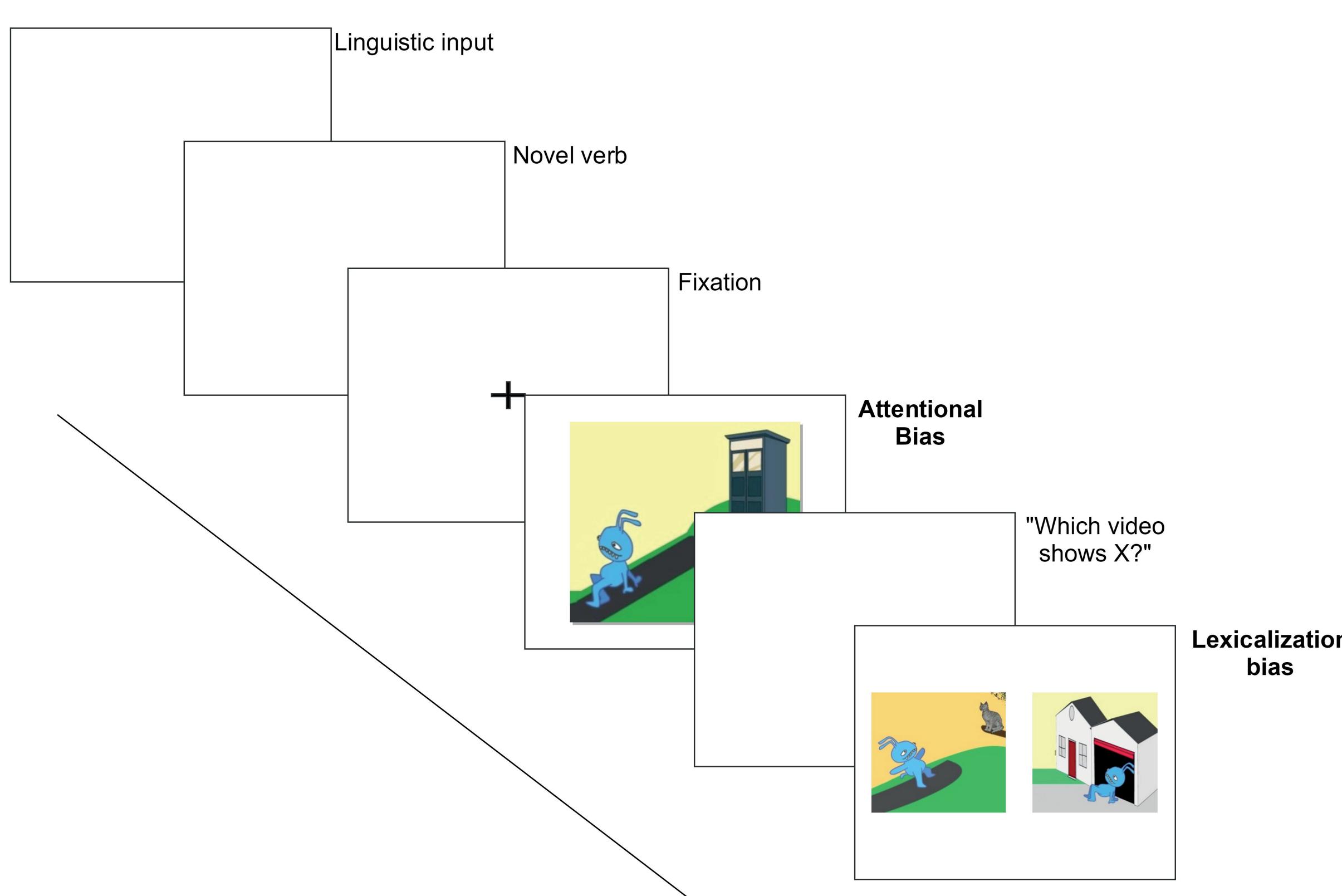


Fig 2. Mean of count of responses with 95% confidence intervals

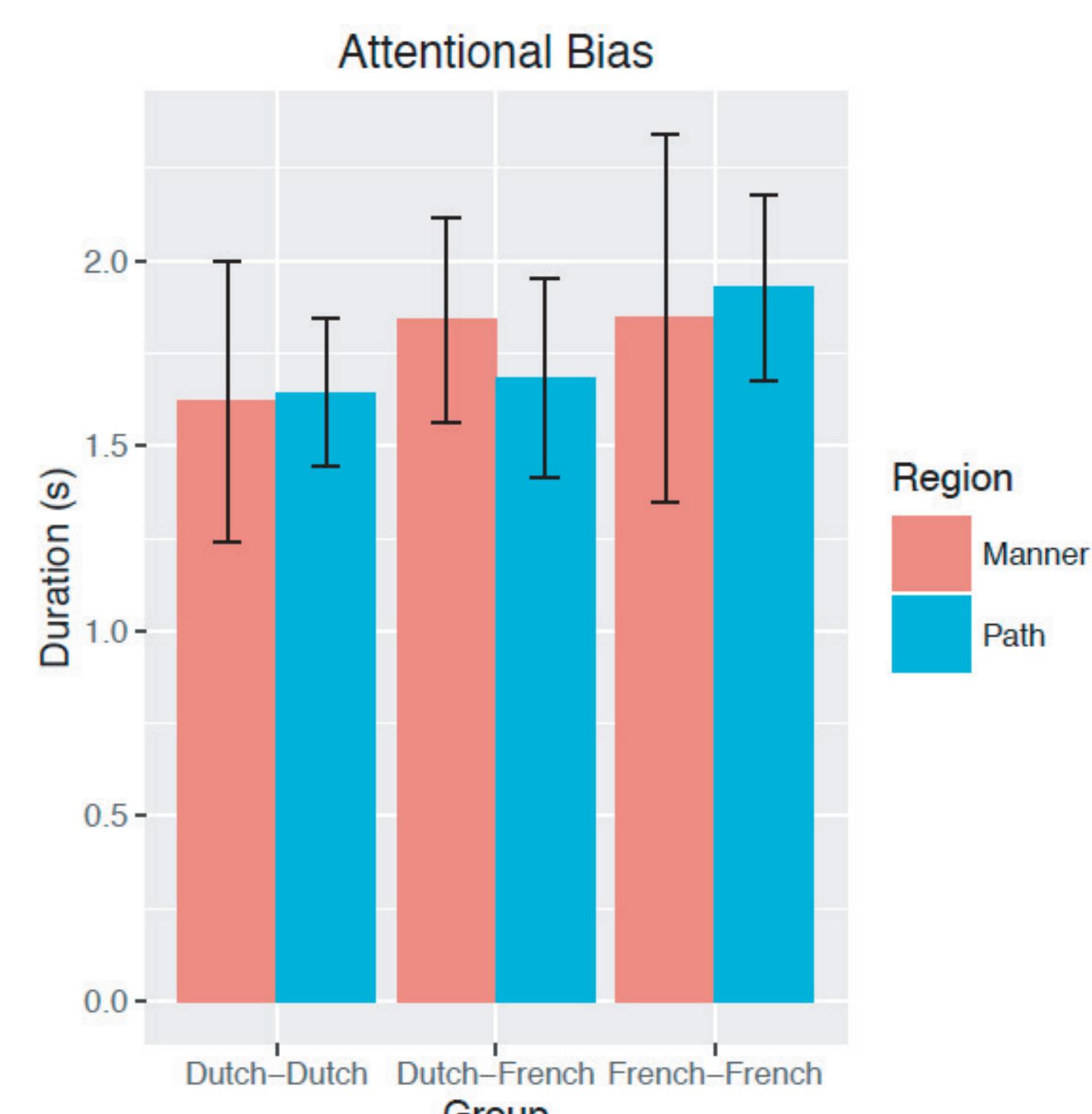


Fig 3. Mean of looking time in sec. with 95% confidence interval.

5. Conclusions

- No significant difference has been found between the three groups (N=24, study ongoing).
- Further research is needed to know to what extent French is path biased and whether we can use this language to investigate attentional and lexicalization biases to compare speakers of different typological languages.

6. Future Directions

- Corpus study (verb frequency)
- Production study
- AOI bottom-up clustering
- Compare other languages

References

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Acknowledgements

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All project materials (video/audio stimuli, anonymized data, and analysis scripts) are available at <http://github.com/AttentionalLexicalizationBiases>