

Coordinating with a Problem Solver.

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Abstract [English]

'the following paper examines the degree to which response speed in answering attitude questions can be regarded as a valid indicator for the respondent's attitude strength and as a reliable predictor for their susceptibility to question order effects. in the present study we utilize for each respondent the deviation of the response latency at the focal question from their 'normal' response speed and therefore a standardized version of this indicator. first, the response-latencies' convergent validity can be demonstrated. as expected, these correlate significantly with the extremity of the attitude responses and the reported response certainty as 'conventional' measures of the attitude strength. furthermore, we find clear evidence for the construct validity of the response latencies. in a splitballot experiment the respondents were asked about their attitudes towards a complete liberalization of the abortion law either before or after they answered a question about the termination of pregnancy as a result of rape. we find contrast effects in both items, the respective strength of which can be predicted to a significant degree by the response speed of the respondents. in comparison, the two alternative indicators of attitude strength are found either to be irrelevant in this respect or to lose their explanatory power if the relevance of the response speed is controlled at the same time. in summary, the respondents are found to be only influenced by question order effects if their response speed and thus their attitude strength drops below a certain threshold.' (author's abstract)

Keywords: Ethnic identity, acculturation orientations, domain specificity

Abstract [Deutsch]

'der vorliegende beitrag untersucht, inwieweit die geschwindigkeit bei der beantwortung von einstellungsfragen als valider indikator für die einstellungsstärke der befragten und als zuverlässiger prädiktor für deren beeinflussbarkeit durch fragenreihfolgeeffekte angesehen werden kann. dabei werden die abweichungen der antwortlatenzen bei den zielitems von der 'normalen' antwortgeschwindigkeit der jeweiligen befragten und damit eine standardisierte version dieses indicators herangezogen. die ergebnisse zeigen erstens die konvergente validität der antwortlatenzen als operationalisierung der einstellungsstärke. diese korrelieren in der erwarteten art mit der extremität der einstellungsangaben