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Dear Doctor de Haan, Nelson, and Quinn,

We hereby submit a paper entitled “Infants’ preference for speech sounds: A meta-analysis”. Our study gathers all the available literature on infants’ preference for speech sounds, which allowed us unprecedented power to statistically test previous claims based on non-statistical comparisons, often done by interpreting p-values across papers. This practice is now openly considered as incorrect (as expressed in Gelman & Stern, 2012: “the difference between ‘significant’ and ‘non-significant’ is not itself statistically significant”). We demonstrate results are extremely stable across the first year of life; and do not statistically differ depending on whether native or foreign speech is used, or whether the competitor sound is artificial or natural, vocal or non-vocal. Given the crucial importance of speech preference for understanding how infants build cognitive representations of speech sounds, we make targeted recommendations for future data collection and reporting endeavors.

Regarding ethical guidelines, our is a meta-analytic study and therefore does not rely on newly collected data.

Cécile Issard collected the meta-analytic data, with input from Alejandrina Cristia. Cécile Issard, Sho Tsuji, and Alejandrina Cristia analyzed data. Cécile Issard and Alejandrina Cristia wrote the manuscript. Cécile Issard, Sho Tsuji and Alejandrina Cristia reviewed the manuscript.

This work has not been published previously, and is not under consideration for publication elsewhere.

Best regards,

Cécile Issard