

MA notes

Study

Aim: find the best medium for judgement tests

Materials:

- German sentences involving contrastive focus
- E.g., A: I heard that John is travelling from Africa tomorrow. B: No, to.
- E.g., A: Ich habe gehört, dass Johannes morgen aus Afrika reist. B: Nein, nach.

Hypotheses:

- Answers with orthographic marking score higher acceptability ratings compared to answers without orthographic marking
- Verbal answers score higher acceptability ratings compared to written stimuli

Methods:

- run experiments comparing (1) orthographic marking and (2) stimuli (written or verbal)
- hence, three conditions:
 - o written without orthographic marking
 - o written with orthographic marking
 - o auditive version
- use Prolific or clickworker or via university mail for recruiting
- use Praat for recording of verbal stimuli
- likert scale 1-7

analysis:

- z-score the likert scales
- fit LMMS, using R

yet to be determined:

- decide whether between- or within-subject design is better
- determine number of stimuli for each condition
- determine type of stimuli
 - o type of question (wh-question or yes/no question)
 - o length of the answer (compare example (1)-(6) and (7) below)
 - o complexity of the sentence structure
 - o only question-answer pairs or also sentences like *A did not do X, but B did.*
 - o perhaps less important since the experiment is about the methodology, not grammaticality
- determine number of participants

list of potential stimuli:

- (1) Glaubit Hans, dass Peter schwach oder stark ist?

Schwach.

- (2) Hans glaubt, dass Peter fröhlich ist.
Nein, traurig.
- (3) Ich glaube, dass Hans den Rotwein gekauft hat.
Nein, den Weißwein.
- (4) Denkt Peter, dass Hans den Rotwein gekauft hat?
Nein, den Weißwein.
- (5) Hans glaubt, dass Peter aus Afrika reist
Nein, nach.
- (6) Ich glaube, dass Peter das Haus verkauft hat.
Nein, vermietet.

(BA student's write up, more examples on pp. 5-6, including prepositional phrases)

- (7) Also Anna findet Benjamin attraktiv?
Nein, Anna findet Katharina attraktiv.

(Wagner 1999: 1529)

- (8) Wird Maria nach Faris fahren?
Maria wird wohl nicht fahren, aber vermutlich Hans.

(Vahideh & Harris 2021: 3)