**MA notes**

**Study**

Aim: find the best medium for judgement tests

Materials:

* German sentences involving contrastive focus
* E.g., A: I head 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:
  + written without orthographic marking
  + written with orthographic marking
  + 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
  + type of question (wh-question or yes/no question)
  + length of the answer (compare example (1)-(6) and (7) below)
  + complexity of the sentence structure
  + only question-answer pairs or also sentences like *A did not do X, but B did*.
  + perhaps less important since the experiment is about the methodology, not grammaticality
* determine number of participants

list of potential stimuli:

1. Glaubt Hans, dass Peter schwach oder stark ist?

Schwach.

1. Hans glaubt, dass Peter fröhlich ist.

Nein, traurig.

1. Ich glaube, dass Hans den Rotwein gekauft hat.

Nein, den Weißwein.

1. Denkt Peter, dass Hans den Rotwein gekauft hat?

Nein, den Weißwein.

1. Hans glaubt, dass Peter aus Afrika reist

Nein, nach.

1. Ich glaube, dass Peter das Haus verkauft hat.

Nein, vermietet.

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

1. Also Anna findet Benjamin attraktiv?  
   Nein, Anna findet Katharina attraktiv.

(Wagner 1999: 1529)

1. Wird Maria nach Paris fahren?  
   Maria wird wohl nicht fahren, aber vermutlich Hans.

(Vahideh & Harris 2021: 3)

Notes about how to design your questionnaire according to Bross (2019):

* As little variation as possible (e. g. same tense, same sentence structure, definiteness)
* In addition to your sentences of interest, include some grammatical and some completely ill-formed sentences -> can be used as anchor values against which to interpret the actual data and to check whether participants filled our the questionnaire randomly or not
* Present participants with acceptable and unacceptable sentences at the beginning of the study (as recommended by Sedarous & Namboodiripad 2019: 6)
* Use filler sentences to cover the true propose of the study (Cowart’s (1997:52) advice: “The best strategy is to include a balanced list of fillers that includes approximately equal numbers of sentences at a wide range of acceptability values.”)