Title Here: SOMETHING ABOUT DRM AND RELATIONAL ENCODING

Nicholas P. Maxwell

Midwestern State University

**Author Note**

Correspondence concerning this article should be addressed to Nicholas P. Maxwell, Department of Psychology, Midwestern State University, 3410 Taft Blvd, Wichita Falls, TX, United States. Study materials, data files, and *R* code used for analyses have been made available via OSF [LINK]

Abstract

[ABSTRACT WILL GO HERE]

Word Count: XXX

*Keywords*: Judgments of Learning; Reactivity; Single Item Lists; DRM Paradigm; Recognition

[TITLE HERE]

When learning new information, it is helpful to assess whether the knowledge one is acquiring is being sufficiently encoded. Metamemory, or the processes by which individuals regulate their learning, is a crucial component of learning, as it helps individuals decide whether items need additional study or if they have been sufficiently learned (see Nelson & Narens, 1990). To investigate questions surrounding metamemory, researchers commonly use Judgments of Learning (JOL) tasks, where participants study a set of items and predict their likelihood of correctly remembering them on a later test (see Rhodes, 2016; Schwartz & Metcalf, 2017, for reviews). Thus, JOLs provide a simple measure for assessing how various manipulations affect the study process, including perceptual manipulations (e.g., font; Rhodes & Castel, 2008; Maxwell, Perry, & Huff, 2022) and the presence of associations between items in cue-target pairs (e.g., Koriat & Bjork, 2005; Castel, McCabe, & Rhodes, 2007).

Historically, research involving JOLs has considered these ratings to be neutral measures with no effect on memory, particularly when participants make them concurrently with or immediately following study (though see Spellman & Bjork, 1992, who posited that JOLs made following a delay improved memory for judged items). As such, early work JOL studies often focused on factors influencing their accuracy, rather than their potential effects on memory. However, over the last decade, a growing body of research has demonstrated that JOLs are *reactive* on learning (e.g., Janes, Rivers, & Dunlosky, 2018; Maxwell & Huff, 2022; Soderstrom, Clark, Halamish, & Bjork, 2015; see Double, Birney, & Walker, 2018, for review). Thus, the act of making JOLs modifies participants memory for studied items, likely by making certain features of the stimuli more salient at encoding (Ericsson & Simon, 1993). As a result, eliciting JOLs at encoding could potentially produce memorial benefits (i.e., *positive reactivity*) or costs (i.e., *negative reactivity*), which would be evident when comparing memory performance between participants making JOLs at encoding and a separate group of participants completing a no-JOL control task (e.g., silent reading).

Studies investigating JOL reactivity using cue-target word pairs have revealed a consistent pattern of reactivity: When pairs are related (e.g., mouse – cheese), JOLs improve memory (Janes et al., 2018; Halamish & Undorf, 2023; Maxwell & Huff, 2022; Soderstrom et al., 2015). However, this positive reactivity does not generally extend to unrelated pairs (e.g., mouse – cup), particularly when memory is assessed via cued-recall testing. Instead, JOLs are non-reactive on unrelated pairs (but see Mitchum, Kelley, & Fox, 2016, who showed no reactivity on related pairs and *negative* reactivity on unrelated pairs). To explain the moderating effects of relatedness on JOL reactivity patterns, Soderstrom et al. proposed a cue-strengthening account, which posits that two conditions must be met for reactivity to occur on cue-target pairs. First, studied items must contain intrinsic cues which participants use to inform their JOLs (see Koriat, 1997). Second, participants must be tested using a method that is sensitive to any cues that are strengthened due to making JOLs. Thus, when participants are tested via cued-recall, the cue-strengthening account predicts a memory benefit on related pairs, given that cued-recall testing is highly sensitive to pair relatedness. For unrelated pairs, however, JOLs do not produce a memorial benefit, as intrinsic cue-target relations are not available for this pair type.

While the cue-strengthening account does not explicitly specify the particular cues which JOLs strengthen, it is likely that making JOLs primarily strengthens cue-target relations, given that pair relatedness is a highly salient cue for later remembering (Mueller, Tauber, & Dunlosky, 2013). Given this possibility, recent studies have explored the degree to which relatedness contributes to reactivity. For example, Maxwell and Huff (2022) compared recall for participants making JOLs to three additional encoding groups: A no-JOL control group, a group of participants completing a shallow vowel-counting task instead of providing JOLs, and, importantly, a group of participants who engaged in a deep relational encoding task. Compared to both the no-JOL and shallow encoding groups, JOL participants showed positive reactivity for all related pair types. Critically, participants in the relational encoding group also demonstrated this pattern, even though they were not required to provide JOLs at encoding. Thus, Maxwell and Huff concluded that providing JOLs at encoding encouraged participants process cue-target relations, which led to the implicit adoption of a relational encoding strategy.

Additionally, Halamish and Undorf (2023) recently investigated relatedness effects on on JOL reactivity using related, unrelated, and identical cue-target pairs. In addition to testing differences in cued-recall across pair types, participants also made relatedness judgments at test, in which participants indicated whether cue items had been previously paired with a related, unrelated, or identical target word. Overall, JOLs produced positive reactivity on related but not unrelated pairs, a finding consistent with previous reactivity studies (e.g., Janes et al., 2018; Soderstrom et al., 2015, etc.). Positive reactivity also extended to identical cue-target pairs, further suggesting that perceived relatedness is necessary for reactivity to occur. Importantly, making JOLs also improved the accuracy of relatedness judgments, but only on related pairs. Taken together, these findings suggest that JOLs encourage participants to process relatedness but only for pairs with pre-existing relations.

**JOL Reactivity and List Relatedness**

As noted above, most work investigating JOL reactivity has tested for reactivity patterns using various types of cue-target pairs. This is likely because factors influencing JOLs are often studied within the context of related versus unrelated cue-target pairs, rather than via list-wise manipulations of relatedness (see Chang & Brainard, in press). However, like cue-target relatedness, list relatedness has similarly been shown to affect the magnitude of JOLs. For example, Matvey et al. (2006) had participants make item-level JOLs for words presented in either categorized (i.e., related) or uncategorized (i.e., unrelated) single word lists. Overall, a classic relatedness effect was emerged, such that JOLs were higher for categorized lists relative to uncategorized lists. Similarly, Chang & Brainard replicated this general pattern for JOLs while also demonstrating that items in categorized lists were consistently recalled at a greater rate relative to uncategorized lists. Thus, relatedness effects that are observed on JOLs with cue-target pairs extend to categorized and uncategorized single item lists.

While relatedness has been shown to affect the magnitude of JOLs regardless of whether it is manipulated inter-item (i.e., related and unrelated cue pairs) or when using categorized and uncategorized single-item lists, the mechanisms driving these effects likely differ based on the type of stimuli. Based on Koriat’s (1997) cue-utilization account, making JOLs for cue-target pairs promotes the use of intrinsic cues (i.e., item properties) which participants use to inform their JOLs. Cue-target relations reflect a classic example of intrinsic cues, given that the relation between items is inherent to the pair and easily processed at encoding. However, by nature, single-item lists display only one item at a time. Thus, any relatedness cues would reflect *extrinsic cues*, given that participants must assess how the item relates back to previously presented items within the list. Thus, extrinsic cues reflect the specific characteristics in which encoding occurs, rather than inherent properties of the stimuli.

Regarding JOL reactivity, few studies have directly assessed the effects of making JOLs on memory for single-word lists. As such, current theories of JOL reactivity often focus on explaining the role intrinsic cues as an underlying factor for reactivity to occur (e.g., Soderstrom et al.’s, 2015 cue-strengthening account). In a notable exception, however, Senkova and Otani (2021) assessed the effect of list relatedness on JOL reactivity by testing for reactivity on categorized and uncategorized word lists for participants making JOLs, pleasantness ratings, or a control task in which participants simply assigned a random number to each item (Experiment 1) and participants making JOLs, completing an imagery task, or the control task (Experiment 2). Across experiments, participants making JOLs had greater free-recall relative to participants in the control group. Importantly, recall benefits were greater for categorized lists, suggesting that the presence of list-wise relatedness facilitated reactivity. Additionally, both deep encoding comparison groups also improved free-recall relative to participants in the no-JOL control group. Because both pleasantness ratings and imagery tasks are classic item-specific tasks based on the item-specific/relational framework (Einstein & Hunt, 1980; Hunt & Einstein, 1981), Senkova and Otani argued that positive JOL reactivity reported on categorized wordlists reflected an item-specific process rather than a relational encoding process. Considered alongside findings investigating the effects of relatedness on reactivity with cue-target pairs (e.g., Halamish & Undorf, 2023; Maxwell & Huff, 2022), it is likely that JOL reactivity reflects different underlying processes based on the type of stimuli that participants study.

**The Present Study**

Although it is evident that making JOLs benefits recall of related versus unrelated cue-target pairs, less is known about the effects of making these judgments on categorized and uncategorized lists. As such, the present study sought to first replicate findings from Senkova and Otani (2021) showing that categorized lists receive a greater memorial benefit relative to uncategorized lists with free-recall testing (Experiment 1A) and whether these patterns extend to recognition testing (Experiment 1B), given that JOL reactivity effects observed with cue-target pairs have been shown to extend to this test type (e.g., Myers, Rhodes, & Hausman, 2020). Next, Experiment 2 utilized the Deese-Roediger-McDermott paradigm (Deese; 1959; Roediger & McDermott, 1995), which allowed for an assessment of the effects of item-specific and relational processes on JOL reactivity. To preview, across experiments [RELATED VS UNRELATED FINDINGS FOR FREE-RECALL] [RECOGNITION FINDINGS?] Finally, [ITEM-SPECIFIC VS. RELATIONAL FOR DRM]

**Experiment 1A: Related versus Unrelated Lists and Free-Recall Testing**

The goal of Experiment 1 was to test [MAIN GOAL]. As such, free-recall was compared between three groups: Participants making concurrent, item-level JOLs, a second group who made global JOLs immediately following each study list, or a no-JOL control group. Based on [WHAT DO WE PREDICT?]

**Method**

**Participants**

A total of XX participant were recruited from XX University and completed the study in exchange for partial course credit. Next, an additional XX participants were recruited from Prolific (www.prolic.co) and participated at a rate of $3.00 per 20-minute session. The final sample contained XX participants, and was informed by an a priori power analysis conducted with *G\*Power 3.1* (CITE), which suggested that xx participants would be needed to detect medium main effects and interactions (STATS). All participants were native English speakers, and Prolific participants were additionally required to have obtained at least a high school degree or equivalent.

**Materials**

[CATEGORIZED AND UNCATEGORIZED LISTS]

**Procedure**

[WORDS HERE]

**Results**

[SIGNIFICANCE PARAGRAPH – REFERENCE FIGURE AND APPENDIX] [PBIC?]

[INTRODUCE MODEL]

**Experiment 1B: Related versus Unrelated Lists and Recognition Testing**

Experiment 2 tested [MAIN GOAL – FREE RECALL]. Based on [WHAT DO WE PREDICT?]

**Method**

**Participants**

[WORDS HERE]

**Materials**

[WORDS HERE]

**Procedure**

[WORDS HERE]

**Results**

[REFERENCE FIGURE AND APPENDIX] [INTRODUCE MODEL]

**Discussion**

[WORDS HERE]

**Experiment 2: DRM Lists**

[WORDS HERE]

**Method**

**Participants**

[WORDS HERE]

**Materials**

[WORDS HERE]

**Procedure**

[WORDS HERE]

**General Discussion**

[WORDS HERE]

**Conclusion**

[WORDS HERE]