October 2nd, 2024

Mark L. Howe, PhD

City University of London

London, UK

Henry Otgaar, PhD

Maastricht University

Maastricht, Netherlands

Dear Dr. Howe and Dr. Otgaar:

I am submitting my manuscript entitled “Judgments of Learning Improve Memory for Word Lists via Enhanced Item-Specific Encoding: Evidence from Categorized, Uncategorized, and DRM Lists” to be considered for publication as an original research article in *Memory*.

This paper investigates a recent hypothesis that judgment of learning (JOL) reactivity on word lists reflects enhanced item-specific encoding. Across three experiments, I test the item-order account of reactivity (Zhao et al., 2023), which posits that item-by-item JOLs encourage item-specific encoding of study items while simultaneously impairing relational encoding. As such, this account predicts a dissociation between JOL reactivity and test format, such that JOLs should improve memory when it is assessed via recognition testing but should be non-reactive when free-recall testing is used. Thus, the present study utilizes both free-recall (Experiment 1A) and recognition testing (Experiments 1B and 2). Importantly, all experiments included two separate JOL groups (item-level JOLs which were elicited individual for each word) and global JOLs (which were elicited for each list), allowing for a comparison between JOL tasks emphasizing item-specific and relational aspects of stimuli. Overall, findings Experiments 1A/1B were consistent with an item-order account of reactivity, as item-level JOLs were only reactive on categorized and uncategorized word lists when recognition testing was used. Additionally, this pattern extended to DRM lists in Experiment 2. Global JOLs, however, were non-reactive on correct recognition, though they increased false recognition of critical lures. Taken together, these findings provide further evidence supporting an item-order account of JOL reactivity while also demonstrating that the processes underlying JOL reactivity is contingent upon the interaction between stimuli type, testing methods, and JOL framing.

Overall, I believe that this set of experiments provides substantive empirical, methodological, and theoretical contributions to the literature, particularly through the comparison of item-level and global JOL tasks and the use of DRM lists in Experiment 2. This work is original and not under review elsewhere, and I have no conflicts of interest to disclose. I look forward to hearing about the suitability of this manuscript in *Memory*.

Sincerely,

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