OFFICIAL ABSTRACT and CERTIFICATION

Analyzing language provides insight into cognitive function and improves our understanding of how information is encoded in the brain and later retrieved for speech production. One aspect of language, called linguistic alignment, measures one's tendency to use the same speech patterns as their conversational partner. This research focused on the effect of cognitive load on linguistic alignment in order to determine whether additional processing demands disrupt one's ability to store or retrieve language information. This was achieved by asking 116 participants to complete a picture naming task in which they would listen to pictures being named and subsequently name the pictures in order to determine if they used the same name that the experimenter had previously used. Some participants also memorized digits during either speech production or comprehension. It was found that alignment occurred the most in the no-load conditions and less while the participants were under load ($p < .05$). These results reject the claim that alignment provides a communicative benefit by allowing the speaker to off-load language processing and opens the door for future research to identify what about alignment is beneficial in communication and how it can be applied to improve collaboration and innovation.

Category
Pick one only — mark an "X" in box at right

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Engineering Mechanics

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1. As a part of this research project, the student directly handled, manipulated, or interacted with (check ALL that apply):

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6. I/we hereby certify that the abstract and responses to the   ☐ Yes   ☐ No
   above statements are correct and properly reflect my/our own work.

This stamp or embossed seal attests that this project is in compliance with all federal and state laws and regulations and that all appropriate reviews and approvals have been obtained including the final clearance by the Scientific Review Committee.