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August 25, 2022

Fernanda Ferreira and Brian Dillon  
Co-Editors-in-Chief  
Glossa Psycholinguistics

Dear Professor Ferreira and Professor Dillon,

This submission contains the manuscript “A-maze of Natural Stories: Comprehension and surprisal in the Maze task” which we are submitting to Glossa Psycholinguistics for publication. The manuscript reports a variation on the Maze task (Forster et al., 2009; Boyce et al., 2020) designed to accommodate longer naturalistic texts and an experiment using this method where participants read passages from the Natural Stories corpus (Futrell et al 2020). We present an analysis of the reading time characteristics of the data, focusing on surprisal effects, and we compare to self-paced-reading data collected on the same materials by Futrell et al 2020. We find that in our new Maze task variant participants can successfully read and comprehend the longer Natural Stories corpus texts, that the task yields RTs that are better localized and more sensitive than self-paced reading RTs, and that the same linear effect of word surprisal on RTs previously documented in self-paced reading and eye tracking of naturalistic texts is obtained in our maze RT data. We believe this paper will be of broad methodological relevance, and also potential theoretical interest, for the psycholinguistics community.

Researchers with relevant expertise and interest who therefore might be appropriate reviewers include Jeffrey Witzel, Kenneth Forster, Viktor Kuperman, Dustin Chacón, and Masaya Yoshida.

This manuscript is not under review at any other venue. Please let us know if you need any further information in connection with this submission. We look forward to hearing from you regarding the manuscript!

Sincerely,

*Veronica Boyce*  
*Roger Levy*