Masked Suffix Priming and Morpheme Position Coding

Davide Crepaldi, Kathy Rastle and Colin J. Davis

University of Milano Bicocca, Italy
Royal Holloway University of London, UK

MoProc 8, 20 June 2013
Stems and affixes

You know more about the identity of a word when you know its stem than when you know its affix.

DEAL: deal, deals, dealer, dealing
NESS: kindness, madness, witness, tenderness, seriousness, . . .
(1336 entries in CELEX)

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The English case
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Chateau et al., 2002

- forecast–FOREARM (vs. antisocial–FOREARM) = violate–VIOLIN (vs. habitat–VIOLIN)
- Independently of prefix consistency
The Spanish case

Duñabeitia et al., 2008

brevedad–IGUALDAD (vs. plumaje–IGUALDAD) > volumen–CERTAMEN (vs. topacio–CERTAMEN)
brevity–EQUALITY (vs. plumage–EQUALITY) > volume–CONTEST (vs. topaz–CONTEST)

Dominguez et al., 2010

infelix–INCAPAZ = industria–INCAPAZ > sobrino–INCAPAZ (unhappy–UNABLE) = (industry–UNABLE) > nephew–UNABLE

Crepaldi et al.
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Methods

48 participants

Masked priming (SOA=42 ms)
Nonword primes
Two baselines

The design
altarly–STEEPLY
altaric–STEEPLY
altarfu–STEEPLY
sportel–BROTHEL
sportic–BROTHEL
sportur–BROTHEL
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Results

\[ F[2, 2998] = 3.57, \ p = .028 \]
Affix priming and theories of word identification

- Suffix priming
- Morpheme position coding

Crepaldi et al.

Suffix priming and morpheme position coding

- Genuinely morphological and independent of control stimuli
- Supportive of an equivalent functional role for stems and affixes
- No role for informativeness? But what kind of informativeness should we consider?
Affix priming and theories of word identification

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Stems everywhere and affixes in their place
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Crepaldi, Rastle & Davis, 2010

- SHOOTMENT > SHOOTMANT, but MENTSHOOT = MANTSHOOT
- The classic morpheme interference effect disappear if suffixes are placed at the beginning of nonwords
Stems everywhere and affixes in their place

Crepaldi, Rastle & Davis, 2010

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Crepaldi, Rastle, Davis & Lupker, 2013

▶ MOONHONEY > MOONBASIN

▶ fireback–BACKFIRE < svpjzhtd–BACKFIRE, but rickmave–MAVERICK = yplxtjwb–MAVERICK

▶ Cross-position stem priming
Methods

- Everything is identical to Experiment 1, but the order of suffixes and stems in the primes was reversed.
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The design:

- lyaltar–STEEPLY
- icaltar–STEEPLY
- fualtar–STEEPLY
- elsport–BROTHEL
- icsport–BROTHEL
- ursport–BROTHEL
Results

F[2, 3132] = 1.45, p = .233
Exp 1 vs. Exp 2

\[ F[2, 6082] = 4.38, \ p = .012 \]
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- Different types of representation for stems and affixes?
Thanks and Contacts

Money came from the **Ministry of Education, University and Research** in Italy, and from the **ESRC** and the **British Academy** in the UK.

www.davidecrepaldi.net