

L2 Priming Turns into Morphological Facilitation with Growing Proficiency

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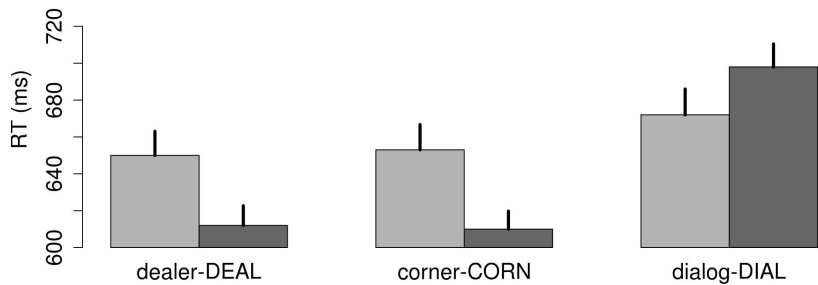
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Morphology

- ▶ Cat-s, deal-er, basket-ball
- ▶ Breach into the arbitrariness of form-to-meaning mapping
- ▶ Critical factor in visual word identification
- ▶ Accounts for much of lexical evolution (e.g., bioweapon, guesstimate, untweet)
- ▶ Form AND meaning

Corners that corn



(Rastle et al., 2004)

Diependaele et al., 2011

- ▶ Transparent (35ms) > Opaque (25ms) > Form (15ms)
- ▶ **NO** significant interaction L1-L2

Heyer and Clahsen, 2015

- ▶ Transparent priming = form priming
- ▶ L1 \neq L2

- ▶ Proficiency
- ▶ Age/method of acquisition

The present study

- ▶ Masked priming
- ▶ Classic morpho-orthographic design, dealer vs. corner vs. dialog
- ▶ Italian and English material
- ▶ L1 Italian, L2 English speakers
- ▶ Wide array of proficiency tests
- ▶ Questionnaire on age/method of acquisition

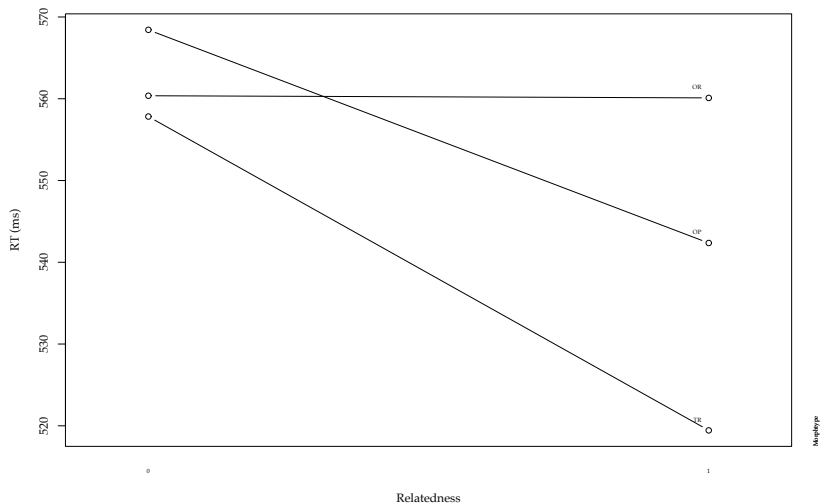
Age/method of acquisition

- ▶ What age were you first exposed to English?
- ▶ Were you primarily exposed to ENG at home or in school?
- ▶ Please rate the relevant dominance of ITA vs. ENG in your current everyday life experience
- ▶ Do you speak any other language other than IT and ENG?

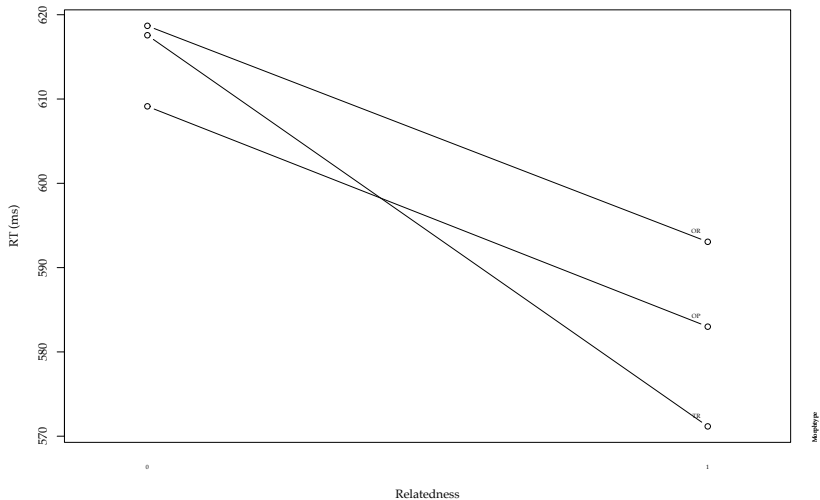
Proficiency

- ▶ Phonetic discrimination
- ▶ Phonetic fluency
- ▶ Spelling to dictation
- ▶ Vocabulary
- ▶ Morphological awareness
- ▶ Oral comprehension
- ▶ Reading comprehension

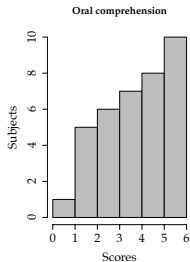
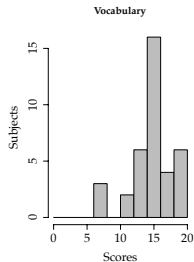
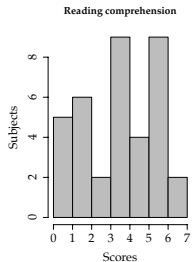
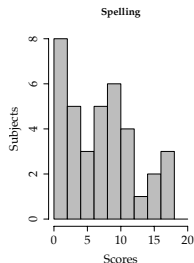
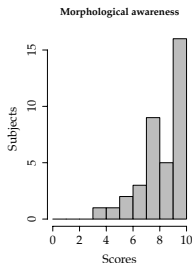
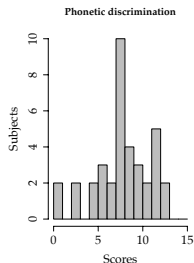
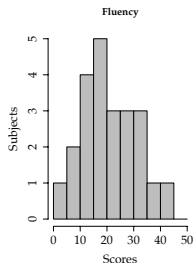
Masked priming overall, L1



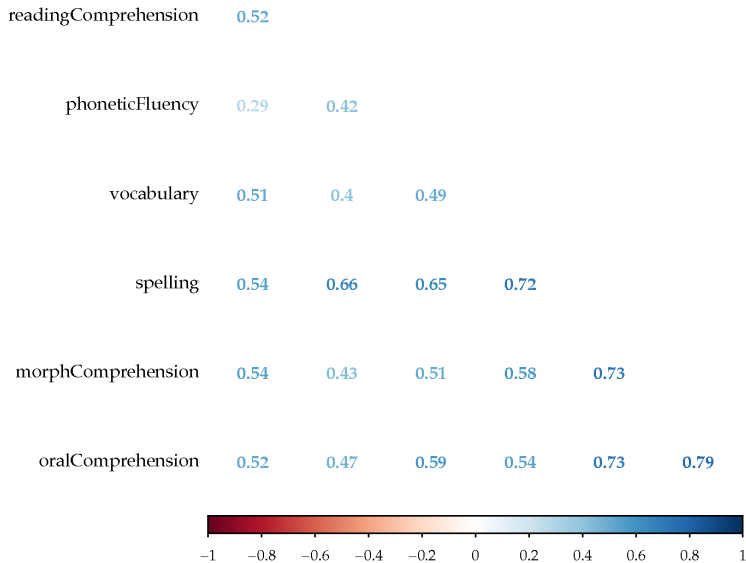
Masked priming overall, L2



L2 proficiency, distributions



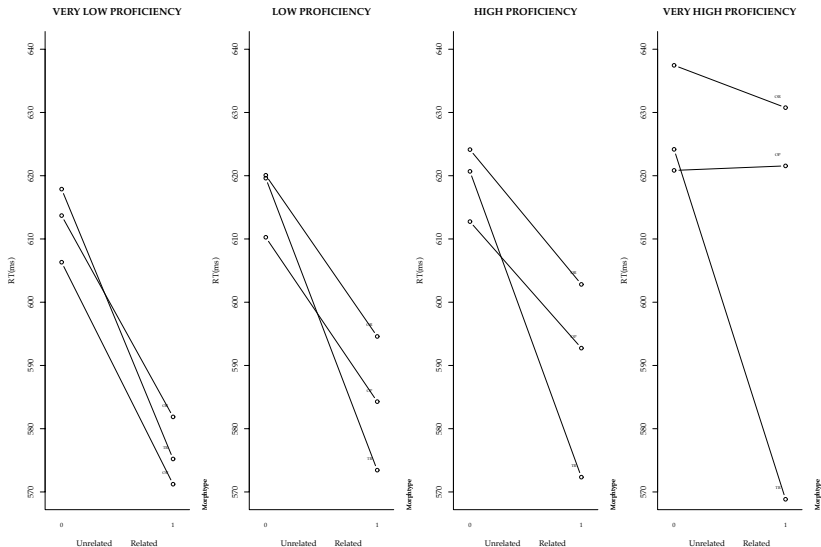
L2 proficiency, correlations



L2 proficiency, individual indexes

Variable	$p(\chi^2)$	$p(\text{interaction})$
Phonemic fluency	.078	.448
Phonemic discrimination	.003	.197
Morph awareness	.107	.953
Spelling	.013	.779
Reading comprehension	.051	.947
Vocabulary	.006	.387
Oral comprehension	.108	.971

L2 priming and overall proficiency



Did I forget about Age of Acquisition?

Nope, it just doesn't work

Conclusions

- ▶ L2 masked priming is (very) different from L1 masked priming
- ▶ L2 masked priming is modulated by proficiency, not much by AoA
- ▶ For low-proficiency L2, all about letter orthography
- ▶ As proficiency increases, form priming vanishes and morphological priming emerges . . .
- ▶ . . . but no morpho-orthography for L2

Acknowledgments



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