

FSD3590 ITSEEN LIITTYVÄ AJATTELU JA KATSEKEILA 2021-2022

FSD3590 SELF-REFERENTIAL THINKING AND THE CONE OF GAZE 2021-2022

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Tasks of perception

Purpose of this study

This is a study about linguistic and visual perception. It includes three tasks and some questions about demographics (gender, age, and education).

Required time

This study takes approximately 15 minutes to complete.

Requirements for participation

- If you have completed this study before, you cannot participate again.
- The study must be completed in one sitting.
- The study is restricted to native speakers of English. If your first language (that is, the language you learned from birth) is not English, unfortunately you cannot participate in this study.
- You must be at least 18 years old to participate.
- You must have normal or corrected-to-normal vision.
- If you have any history of neurological or psychiatric illness, unfortunately you cannot participate in this study.
- The study must be completed on a laptop or a desktop computer.
- The computer screen must be such that you are able to position the screen at arm's length distance and that you are able to sit directly in front of the screen.
- The study must be completed alone in a distraction-free and relatively silent room.
- In order to participate, you are required to set the browser to full screen and to adjust the distance of your computer screen and the browser zoom in your browser. These adjustments are easy to do and, if you consent to participate, they will be instructed next.

Confidentiality

All information that you give in the study will be handled confidentially. The information will only be used in ways that will not reveal who you are. Any personal information that could identify you will be removed or changed before files are shared with other researchers or results are made public. The data will be analyzed at group level only. After completion of the study, anonymized versions of the data, with all identifying information removed, will be made available online. The anonymized data will be filed in electronic form to Finnish Social Science Data Archive's Aila-Data Service. All nonanonymized data will be stored

securely and only the core research group of this study will have access to it. None of the identifiable data will be made available for use outside the research group. Results of this study may be presented at conferences or published in journals, books, and the popular media.

Privacy notice

You may read the privacy notice of the study here:

<https://research.tuni.fi/hiplab/tietosuojailmoitus/tasks-of-perception/>

Voluntary participation

Participation is voluntary, and you may withdraw from the study at any time. If you withdraw from the study, you do not have to state why. If you withdraw from the study, all answers you have given until that moment may be used as part of the research data.

Compensation

Participants will be compensated with £1.88 for their time and effort. If you do not finish the whole study, unfortunately we are not able to compensate you for the lost time.

Further questions

If you have any questions about this study before or after participating, please contact us by email: [contact information deleted].

Consent Agreement

Thank you for your interest in this study. If you have read and understood these terms and agree to them, you can start the study by pressing the link below.

Screen distance adjustment

Sit on your seat with your back against the backrest. Move your computer screen or your seat so that you are directly in front of the computer screen and the screen is at the distance of your fully extended arm as in the picture below. The height of your computer screen does not matter.



Next

Browser zoom adjustment

Set your browser to full-screen mode by pressing the F11 key on your keyboard. Adjust the browser zoom level so that the image of a thumb below is approximately the size of your own thumb. Lean in towards your computer screen so that you can almost touch the screen with the thumb of either hand. If the size of the image is too small or too large, push

CTRL and + or CTRL and - buttons to adjust the browser's zoom. After this adjustment, do not change the browser zoom level, screen resolution, or any other setting that may alter the size of objects in your browser before all tasks have been completed.



Next

Task 1

In this task, you will be presented with three questions, one at a time.

Please answer each of them with **at least five sentences**.

Write the sentences to separate text boxes.

If you can come up with more than five sentences,

write the additional ones to the fifth text box.

Use at least 60 seconds to think about and respond to each question.

The Next button will appear after 60 seconds have passed.

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Please answer the following question with **at least five sentences**.

You can write things you are unsure of.

The Next button will appear after 60 seconds have passed.

Depending on the participant's group assignment, the following three questions are presented one at a time. Each question is presented with five text boxes.

	Self-Referential Group	Control Group
Question 1	What is it about you that makes you different from your family?	What is it about Barack Obama that makes him different from most other people?
Question 2	What is it about you that makes you different from your friends?	What is it about Princess Diana that makes her different from most other people?
Question 3	What is it about you that makes you different from most people in general?	What is it about Albert Einstein that makes him different from most other people?

Question 3 is presented with six text boxes. The sixth box is used for an attention check item. Next to the sixth box, there is the following text.

Write "x" and nothing else in the 6th text box.

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This task has been completed.

Task 2

You will be briefly presented with pictures of faces. After each presentation, you will be asked **whether the person in the picture was looking directly at you or not**. Between these presentations, you will see a black cross in the middle of the screen. Please direct your gaze at the cross.

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Before beginning, make sure that you are sitting directly in front of your computer screen.

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Press Start when you are ready to begin.

Start

--

Is the person in the picture looking directly at you or not?

--

Participants are briefly presented with 88 trials of avatar faces looking either directly at the participant (0°) or 2°, 4°, 6°, 8°, or 10° to the left or right. Each avatar face presentation is followed by a screen with Yes and No buttons.



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Yes / No

--

The trials are presented in two blocks of 44 trials. Between the blocks participants see the following text.

The task is halfway completed.
Press Next when you are ready to continue.

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In the end of the task, there are three control trials and one attention check trial. In these four trials, participants are presented with similar avatar faces but with a 20° deviation.

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In the attention check trial, participants are briefly presented with the following text.

Choose "Yes".

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This task has been completed.

Task 3

In the psychological research of language, it has been found that many single words are redundant for the meaning of the whole sentence. In this task, the significance of pronouns for the comprehension of a sentence is examined.

English sentences from various situations are presented. In each sentence, one pronoun is replaced with a blank. For each sentence, there are three alternatives, all of which fit the sentence grammatically. The task is to **choose from the alternatives the pronoun that you think would most probably fit the context**. There are no right or wrong answers, simply choose the pronoun that makes the most sense to you. If you are uncertain of the answer, you can guess.

Which of the alternatives best fits the sentence?

--

The following 20 questions are presented one at a time with a "See answer options" button. Pressing the button reveals the three personal pronoun alternatives.

All of _____ answers matched the ones in the back of the book.	my	our	his
At first it didn't seem to make any difference, but by later that night the noise from the party was entirely too loud to allow _____ to sleep.	me	her	us
The salesman tried to persuade _____ to buy a set of encyclopedias.	me	her	us
The noise got to _____ before long.	me	us	them
_____ idea of fun is sitting at home and listening to music.	My	His	Our
The sun went down just when _____ decided to go outside.	I	she	we
Please don't do this to _____; it is just not fair.	me	her	us
It was _____ understanding that the deadline for the paper had been delayed one week.	my	her	our
Except for _____, everyone failed the test.	me	us	her
As a result of _____ suggestions, a minor revision in the policy has occurred.	my	his	our
_____ spent so much time on the initial planning that it seemed impossible to finish before the deadline.	I	He	We
It rained so hard that all of _____ clothes got soaked.	my	her	our
For the past few months, _____ have had reports of squabbling and dissatisfaction among the office workers.	I	we	they
According to _____ notes, only five of the original seven laws are still in existence.	my	her	our

Someone stopped _____ to get directions to the stadium.	me	us	them
_____ waited by the phone for the doctor to return the call.	I	He	We
The cashier charged _____ too little for the groceries.	me	her	us
The mosquitoes didn't even bother _____.	me	him	us
Dinner was waiting on the table when _____ came back from the store.	I	he	we
It isn't easy to get lost in this town, but somehow _____ managed it.	I	we	they

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In the end of the task, there is an attention check trial. In this trial, participants are presented with the following sentence, the following instruction, and a "See answer options" button, which reveals the following three answer options.

Surely the officer did not do this to _____ on purpose.

Choose "us".

me you us

--

This task has been completed.

Participant information

All tasks have now been completed. Finally, please, answer the following questions.

What is your gender?

- Male
- Female
- Other
- I'd rather not respond

How old are you?

Text box

How many years of formal education have you completed, beginning with grade one?

Text box

Thank you!

The study is now completed. The study consisted of three tasks.

In Task 1, you either wrote about yourself or about other people, depending on your group assignment. Half of the participants were randomly assigned to complete each task. The aim of these tasks was to induce self-referential thinking in half of the participants, while the other half conducted a control task of thinking about other people.

In Task 2, you assessed whether faces presented to you appeared to be looking at you or not. Some of the faces were looking directly towards you, while others were looking slightly to the side. The aim of this task was to measure whether the self-referential thinking manipulation influences the angle people perceive as being directed at them. The hypothesis is that self-referential thinking increases the width of gaze angles that are perceived as direct.

Task 3 measured self-referential processing, that is, cognitive process of relating information from the external world to the self. In this task, you read incomplete sentences and completed them with person pronouns. The aim of this task was to measure interpretation of ambiguous information (the sentences) as self-referring (by choosing first-person singular pronouns) or other-referring (by choosing other person pronouns). The hypothesis is that self-referential thinking increases the use of first-person singular pronouns in this task.

In sum, the aim of this study was to investigate whether self-referential thinking affects the perception of slightly averted gaze directions such that ambiguous gaze signals are more likely to be interpreted as eye contact. Investigating this question is important for the basic research of gaze perception and the understanding of social cognition more generally.

As stated earlier, all information that you gave in this study will be handled confidentially and used in ways that will not reveal who you are. The data will be analyzed at group level only. After completion of the study, anonymized versions of the data, with all identifying information removed, will be filed to Finnish Social Science Data Archive's Aila-Data Service. In the anonymized data, all answers to Task 1 will be removed and replaced with the number of sentences each participant wrote to each question. All nonanonymized data will be stored securely and only the core research group of this study will have access to it.

If you have any questions about this study, please contact us via Prolific. It is also possible to contact us by email: [contact information deleted].

Thank you for participating.