How are second-language word forms connected to their meanings?

Presenters:
Zhiyi Wu
Ruirui Jia

SCAN ME

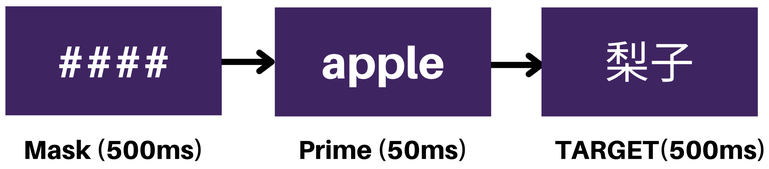
INTRODUCTION:

- Researchers have found that being unconsciously exposed to an L1 word before a semantically related L2 word would result in a faster processing of the L2 word (**a robust L1-L2 semantic priming effect**), but **not always vice versa**. However, the inconsistency may be the result of task sensitivity.

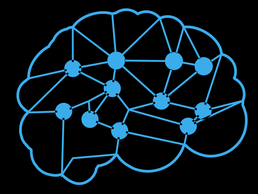
- **OUR GOAL: to find out if L2 words are truly not robustly connected to meanings using different tasks.**

PROPOSED METHODS:

- Chinese-English (different-script) unbalanced bilingual participants
- **Lexical Decision Task (LDT)**
  "Is this a word?"
- **Semantic Categorization Task (SCT)**
  "Is this manmade?"
- **Masked Semantic Priming Effects:**
  Primes are masked and only appear for a very short time (50-100ms)



For bilinguals, second language word forms are **less robustly connected to meanings** than first language ones and may **rely on first language words** to access the meanings



The Revised Hierarchical Model (Kroll & Stewart, 1994)

- **Lexical route**
  L2-L1 is stronger than L1-L2
- **Conceptual route**
  L1-concept is stronger than L2-concept

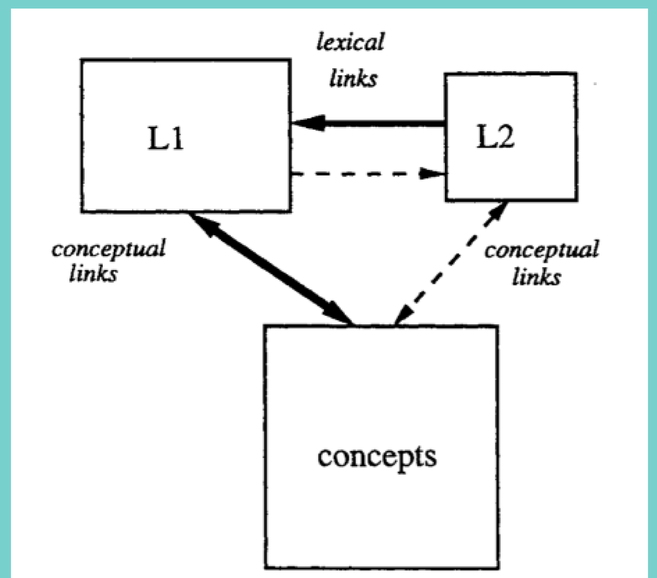


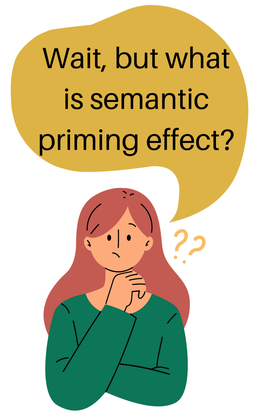
FIG. 3. Revised hierarchical model of lexical and conceptual representation in bilingual memory.

PREDICTIONS:

There is an asymmetry semantic priming effect in LDT

- L1-L2 semantic priming is robust
- L2-L1 semantic priming is less robust

When the task changes from LDT to SCT, L2-L1 semantic priming becomes robust.



Second Language Acquisition Program, UMD

Zhiyi Wu

Ruirui Jia

Nan Jiang