INTRODUCTION
What sources of information influence verb number during agreement computation?
Grammatical number: Indicates whether a noun or noun phrase is grammatically specified as singular or plural.
Conceptual number: Indicates whether a noun phrase refers to a single thing or multiple things in the real world.

How does conceptual number affect agreement computation?
If conceptual number affects agreement computation, more plural verbs should follow conceptually plural subject NPs (e.g., the label on the bottle(s)) than conceptually singular subject NPs (e.g., the bridge to the island(s)).
- Conceptual number effects mixed across languages and studies (e.g., Vigliocco et al., 1996)

Effect of conceptual number is modulated by imageability.
Eberhard (1999) examined the effect of imageability on agreement with conceptual number.
- As subject NP imageability increased, more plural verbs followed conceptually plural subject NPs.

What is the source of the imageability effect?
- Direct assignment of conceptual number
- Weighting of conceptual number

EXPERIMENT 1
How does imageability affect agreement in conceptually singular items?

METHOD
Stimuli & Design
High Imageability: The story with/that had the blatant lie(s)
Low Imageability: The story with/that had the blatant lie(s) N1 N2

- Semantic integration, number of adjectives, and overall meaning matched across structure
- Singular vs. plural local nouns; head nouns always singular; non-distributive
- 32 critical items (16 High Imageability, 16 Low Imageability, 88 fillers (36 plural head))
- Preambles presented visually, read aloud and completed as full sentences.

RESULTS & SUMMARY
- Increased overall imageability leads to lower error rates for conceptually singular preambles.
- Mismatch effects were larger for low imageability than high imageability referents.
- Similar to the imageability findings of Experiment 1 in preambles with complex clauses.

EXPERIMENTS 2 & 3
Does imageability affect error production in sentences with complex modifiers?

METHOD
Experiment 2 Stimuli (Verb frequency manipulation)
- Experiment 2A (High Imageability): The farmer that pushed/poked the stubborn goat(s)
- Experiment 2B (Low Imageability): The evidence that confused/puzzled the witness(es)

Experiment 3 Stimuli (Verb transitivity manipulation)
- Experiment 3A (High Imageability): The actor who yelled/quoted the line(s)
- Experiment 3B (Low Imageability): The memoir that denied/confessed the transgression(s)

RESULTS & SUMMARY
- Singular vs. plural local nouns; head nouns always singular; non-distributive
- Frequency (Exp. 2) and transitivity (Exp. 3) manipulations - no effects
- Preambles presented visually, read aloud and completed as full sentences.

META-ANALYSIS
Does overall imageability and/or individual noun imageability affect subject-verb agreement computation?

METHOD
Experiments included
- Experiment 1
- Experiments 2A&B
- Experiments 3A&B

Obtained overall imageability ratings and N2-N1 relative imageability ratings for all preambles.

Analyses
Empirical logit weighted linear regression on by-item error rates (plural N2 conditions).

RESULTS
- Increasing overall imageability ➔ Lower error rates ($p < .001$)
- Increasing N2-N1 imageability did not affect error rates

SUMMARY
- Increasing imageability of the full preamble (i.e., the referent) reduces error rates for conceptually singular items.
- Relative imageability of nouns within the preambles does not affect agreement computation.

DISCUSSION

Imageability affects the weighting of conceptual number during agreement computation.

SUMMARY
- Increased overall imageability leads to lower error rates for conceptually singular preambles, while increased imageability leads to higher error rates for conceptually plural preambles (Eberhard, 1999).
- Increased overall imageability leads to more verb agreement with the conceptual number of the subject NP.

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