Abstract
This study will look at pause persistence in primed locations with both children and adults. In this study, 80 participants (40 preschoolers, 40 adults) will be shown a picture and hear a description of the picture with a pause in one of two primed locations. Participants will then be shown a similar picture and be asked to give a description. It is predicted that the participants will show pause persistence based on the length of the pauses in the primed condition.

Introduction
The way something is said is said important. For example, the location of a pause could change the meaning of an entire statement. A woman, without her, man is nothing. A woman, without her man, is nothing.

Prosodic persistence is when an aspect of one person's speech has influence on the way another person speaks. This is a multifaceted area of research that consists of aspects such as pitch, timing, and loudness (Jungers & Hupp, 2009).

Speech persistence means that a person will produce a speech pattern that is influenced by a speech prime (Hupp & Jungers, 2009).

Pause persistence is when an adult puts a pause in their speech that is similar to the speech sample they were primed with (Giles, Coupland, Coupland, 1991).

It is known that speech rate often demonstrates influence in both children and adults (Hupp & Jungers, 2009).

Previous studies have shown that pauses influence the listener’s processing and retention of speech, but its impact on the listener’s speech production is not yet fully understood (Macgregor, Corley, & Donaldson, 2010).

Little research has examined pause persistence in children. The purpose of this study is to investigate whether primed pauses will influence adult and children’s speech patterns.

Hypothesis
It is hypothesized that adults and children will produce a longer pause in primed locations when compared to the non-primed location. We expect this to be shown in all ages.

Method
Participants:
• 40 preschool children (age 4 to 5)
• 40 undergraduate students

Procedure:
Participants will be shown a picture and hear a description with a pause in one of two places. Half of the participants will get Prime A and half will get Prime B.

A) The winner of the prize… is the dog
B) The winner of the prize is the… dog

The participants will then be shown a similar picture and be asked to give a description. The prize will go to each animal an equal amount of time.

This study will feature 20 trails presented in random order. Both prime and production trials will feature different animals.

Participant’s speech will be recorded and then later analyzed by hypothesis blind coders to measure the pause duration at the primed locations.

The dependent variable in this study is the participant pause length and the independent variable is pause placement in the primed conditions.

Predicted Results
Analysis: 2 Age (Child, Adult) x 2 Prime Condition (Prime A, Prime B) One-way ANOVA on pause duration in target locations.

Discussion
The predicted results would show there is a relationship between primed pause and speech production in adults and children.

Future studies could examine why adults and children use pause persistence in primed locations and see if this idea of pause persistence could be carried over into other languages.

Further knowledge on pause persistence could help teachers in language instruction by using the influence of pauses to manipulate how children produce speech.

References

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