



The Effects of Cognitive Load on Communication Monitoring

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Introduction

Monitoring one's own communication for utterances unintelligible by the interlocutor effortful? (e.g. Horton & Keysar, 1996)
 -Monitoring can be impaired under load
 or
effortless? (e.g. Clark, 1992)
 -Monitoring is automatic
 If effortful:
 cognitive load → monitoring deficit
 e.g. egocentric errors (theory of mind impaired)
 If effortless:
 cognitive load → no effect

2a

Methodology

Participants (N=73) were asked to

- communicate locations on a board to another person (via audio recording)
- told "the other person will see the board from a **different perspective** than you"
- remember 0, 3, or 6 digits while communicating

2b

Methodology



Procedure

- 0, 3, or 6 digits presented 1/s
- communication of 4 locations
- digit recall
- repeat 1-3 (4 blocks, 16 locations)

IV: Load

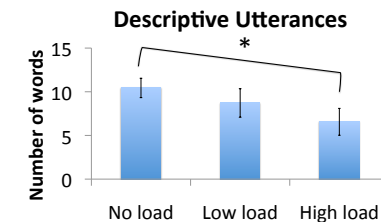
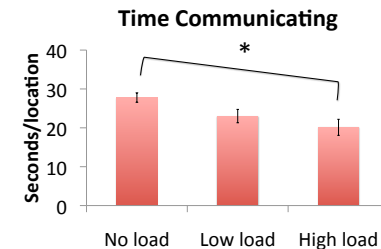
(No, Low, High=0, 3, 6 digits)
 (Items maintained while communicating)

DVs:

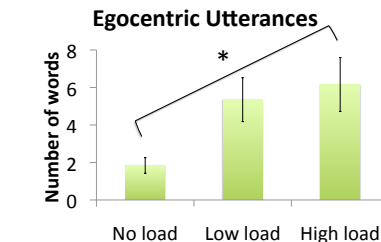
- Time communicating
- Descriptive utterances
- Egocentric utterances

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Results



e.g. "middle", "on an edge", "curvy", "corner", "large", "small"



e.g. "top", "left", "below", "down", "top", "bottom"

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Discussion

Communication monitoring is effortful.

Adults under cognitive load

- make more egocentric errors (impaired ability to use theory of mind)
- spend less time communicating
- are less descriptive

