

# The Case of Different Scripts: Cross-Linguistic Effects in Japanese-English Bilingual Word Recognition

**Koji Miwa, Patrick Bolger**

**Harald Baayen**

*University of Alberta*



ML7, Windsor, Canada  
July 2, 2010

**Ton Dijkstra**

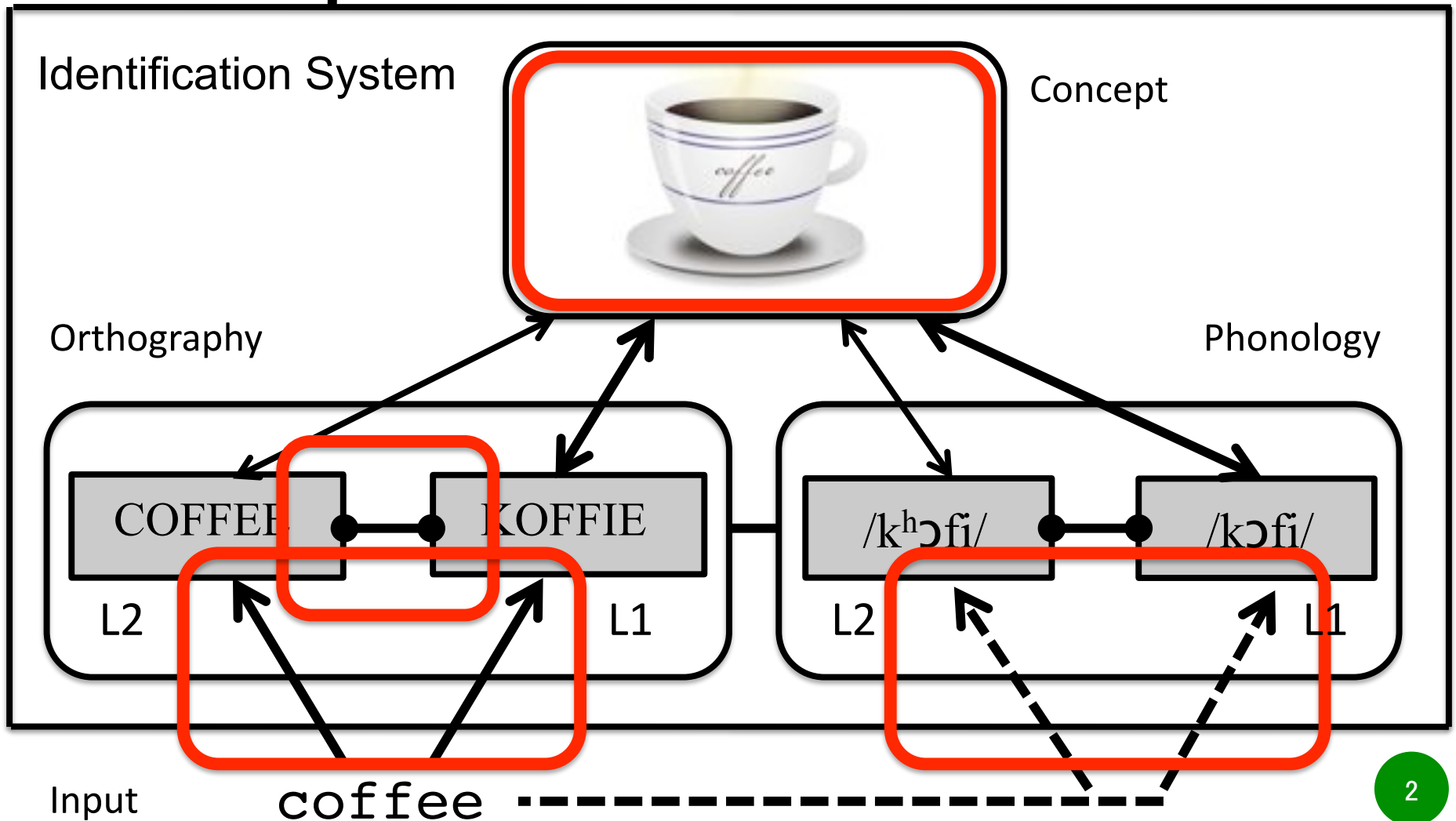
*Radboud University Nijmegen*



Task/Decision System

# BIA+ Model

Dijkstra & van Heuven (2002)



# The Case of Different Scripts

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Can BIA+ Model be generalized to bilinguals' recognition of L2 words for languages with different scripts?



**English**

coffee



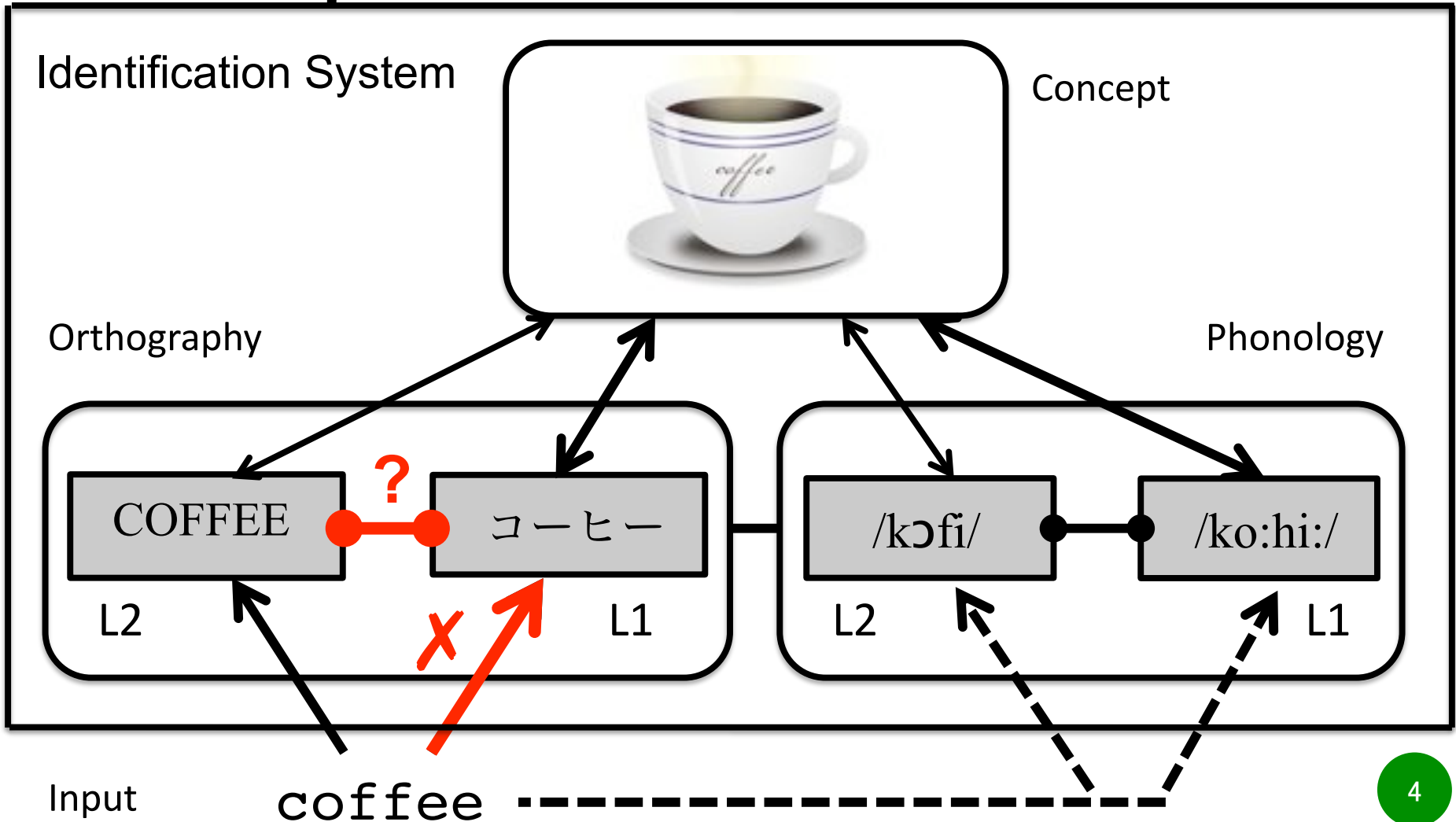
**Japanese**

コーヒー

Task/Decision System

# BIA+ Model

Dijkstra & van Heuven (2002)



# The goals of this study

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- Do Japanese words become co-activated without cross-linguistic orthographic similarity?
- Does **competition** between English target words and Japanese words occur at a later stage? (Diagnostic: English Word Frequency \* Japanese Word Frequency)
- Does a cross-language **phonological similarity** effect arise early? (Diagnostic: Phonological Similarity rating)
- Does a cross-language **translation (semantic) equivalence** matter? (Diagnostic: Translation Equivalence rating)

# Method: LDT with eye-tracking

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## Participants

- 19 Japanese-English late-bilingual readers
- 19 native English monolingual readers (control group)

## Materials

- 250 English simplex words
- 200 English-derived nonwords



# Predictors

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## Bilingual-specific predictors

- **Japanese Word Frequency**  
Loanword word frequency in Japanese
- **Phonological Similarity**  
rated cross-language phonological similarity
- **Translation Equivalence**  
based on rated translation similarity in meaning

## Predictors of the English target words

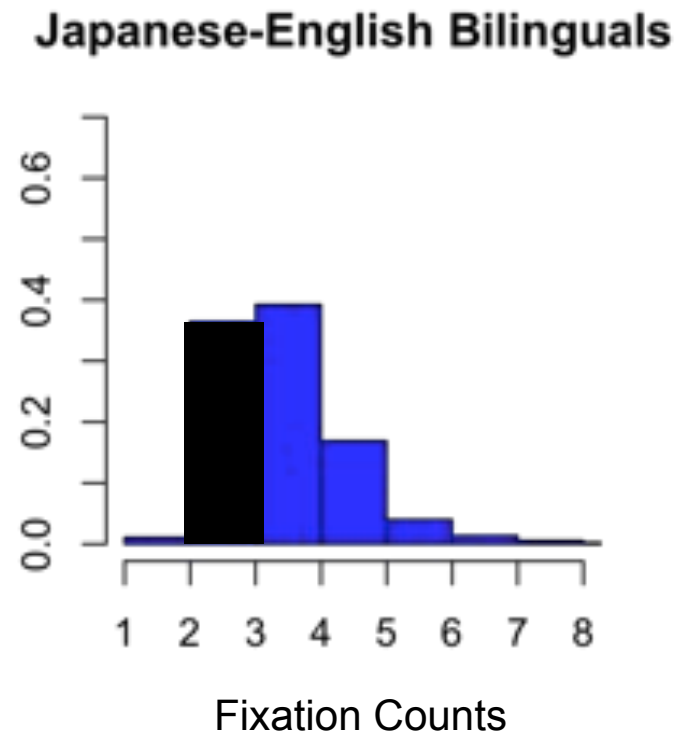
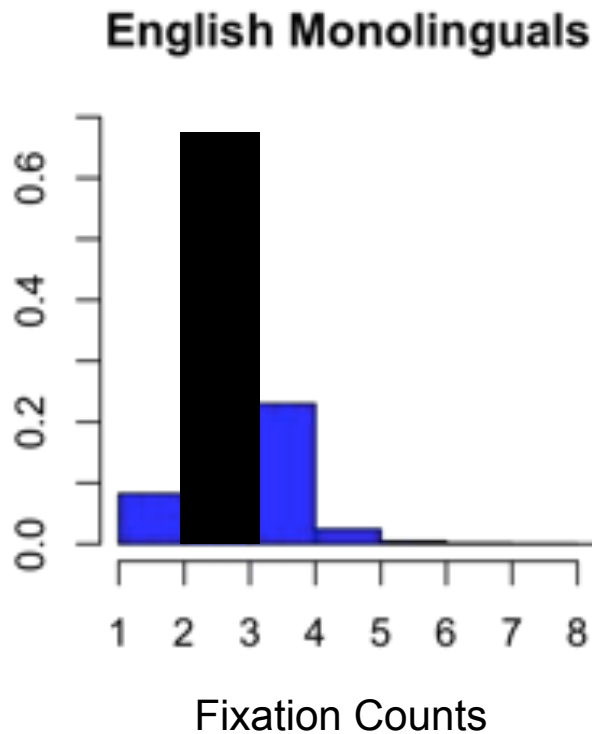
- **English Word Frequency**

## Control predictors

- **Trial** and **Previous RT**

# Distributions of Fixations

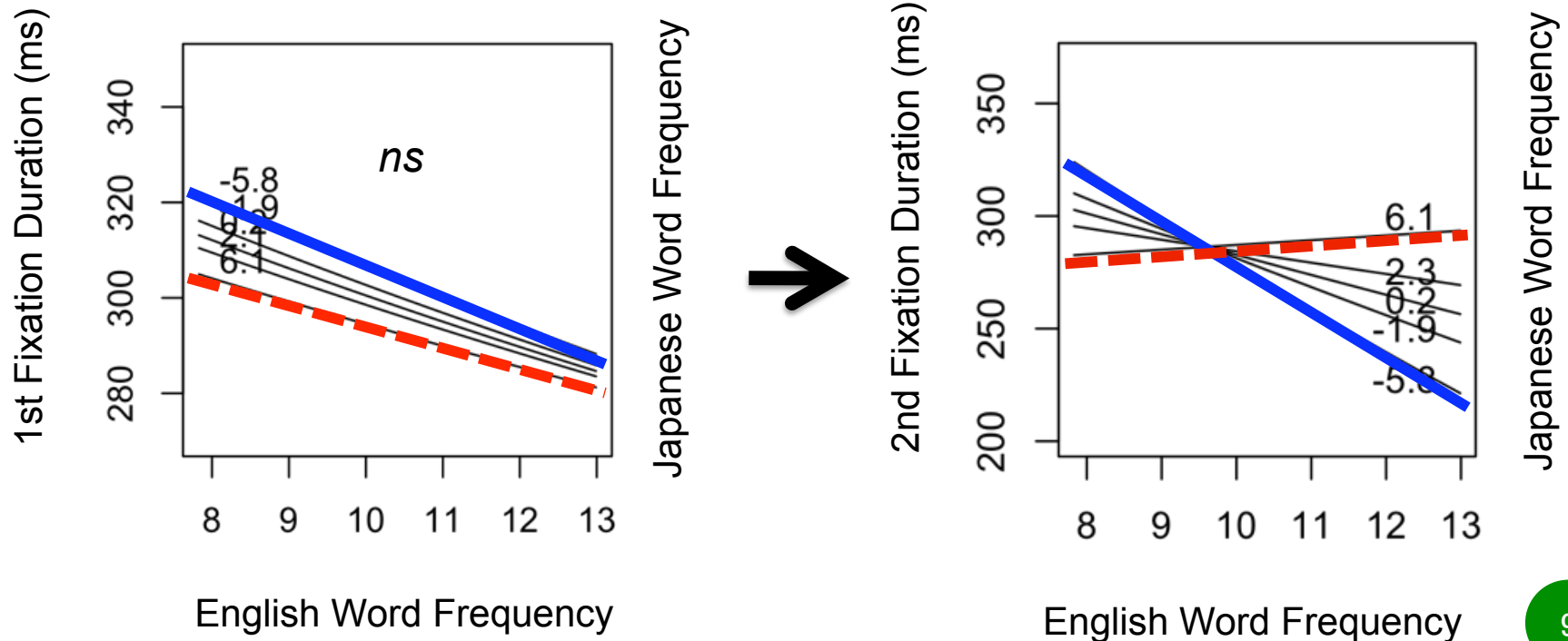
- Single fixations were rare, and the majority of words were scanned by two fixations by English monolingual readers.
- Mode was 3 fixations for Japanese-English bilinguals.





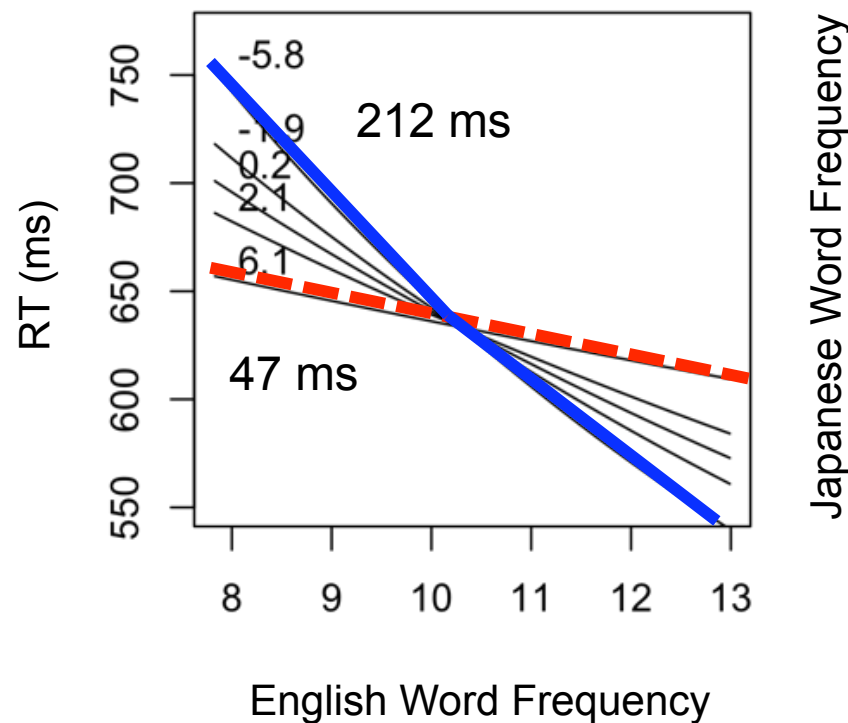
# L1\*L2 Word Frequency Effect

- The competition between L1 and L2 frequencies did not appear at the 1<sup>st</sup> fixation but appeared at the 2<sup>nd</sup> fixation, as predicted.



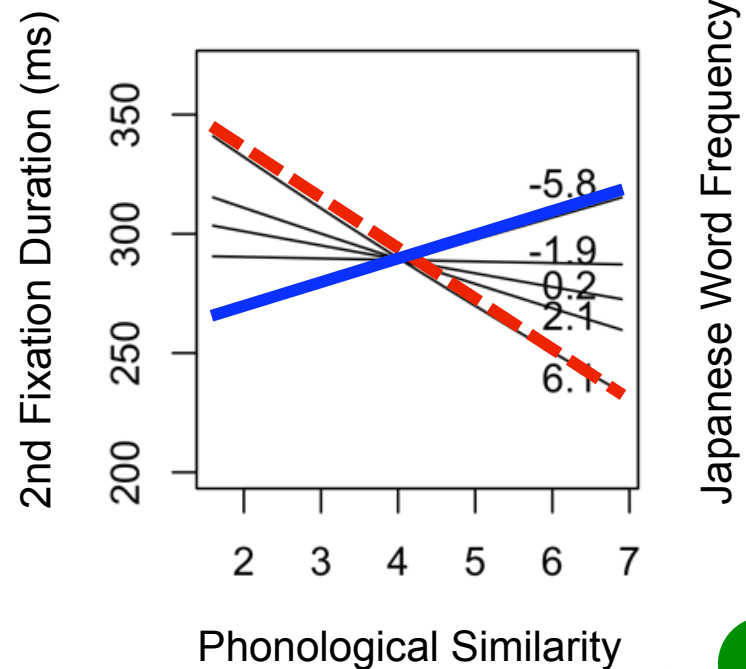
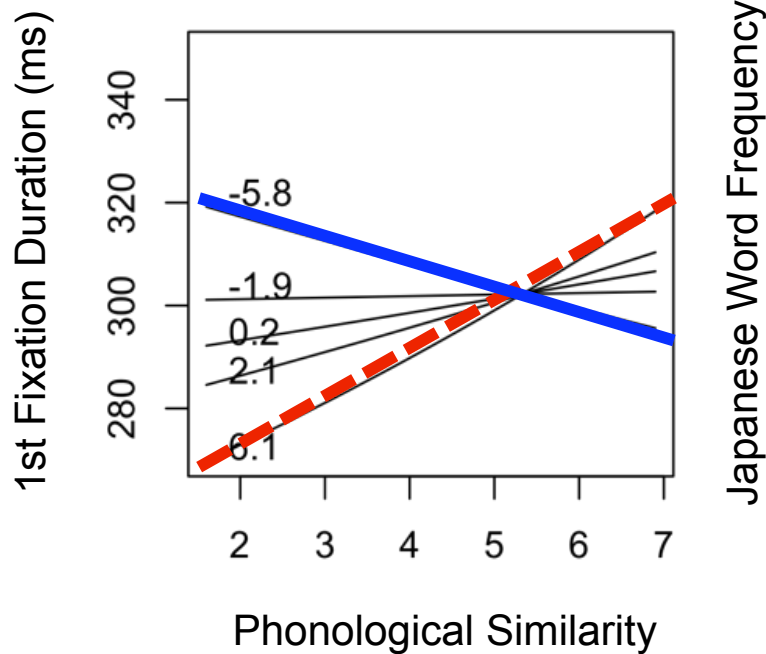
# L1\*L2 Word Frequency Effect

- Response latencies, too, reflected the competition between L2 target word frequency and L1 Japanese word frequency.



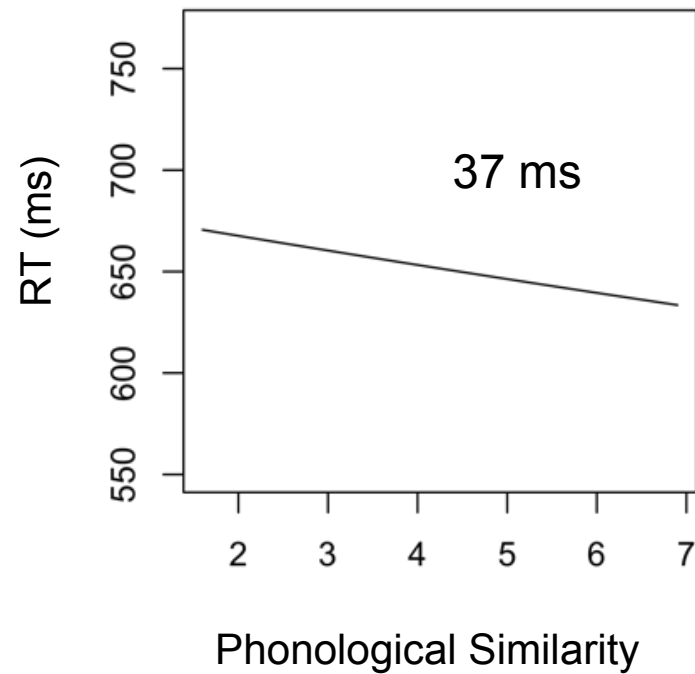
# Phonological Similarity Effect

- Very early **Phonological Similarity** effect, as predicted.
- **Phonological Similarity** effects were modulated by **Japanese Word Frequency** at both 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> fixations.



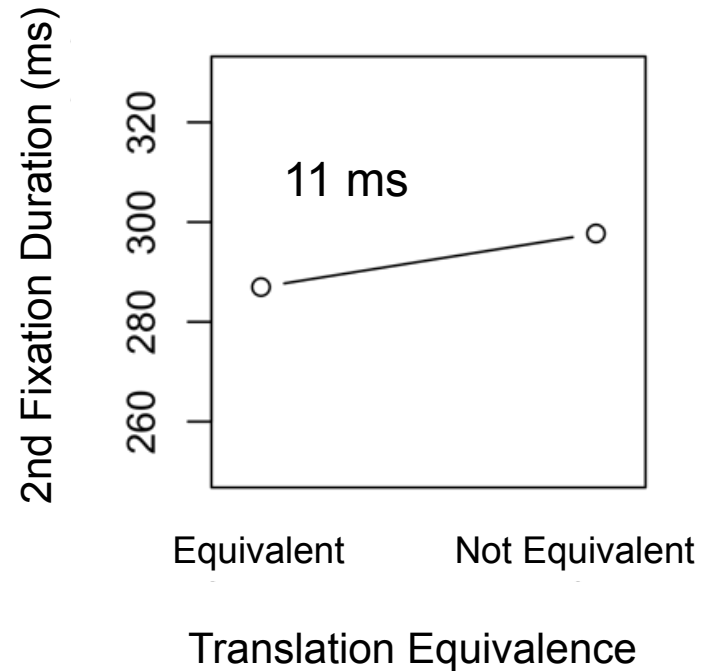
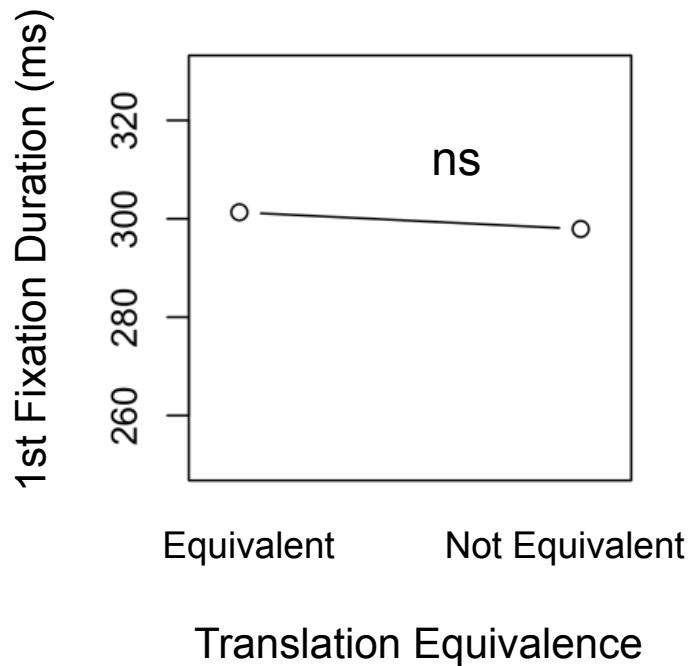
# Phonological Similarity Effect

- Overall, larger cross-language **Phonological Similarity** led to shorter response latencies.



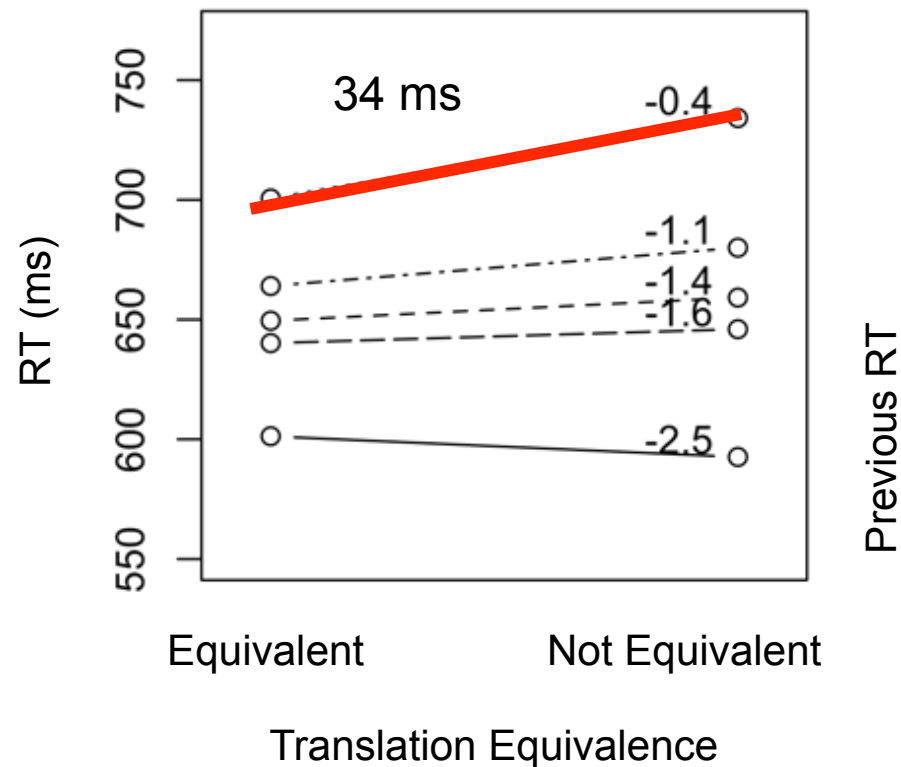
# Translation Equivalence Effect

- Cross-language **Translation Equivalence** did not contribute to the 1<sup>st</sup> fixation but shortened the 2<sup>nd</sup> fixation duration.



# Translation Equivalence Effect

- Cross-language **Translation Equivalence** facilitated responses (particularly noticeable when **Previous RT** was long).



Task/Decision System

# BIA+ Model

Dijkstra & van Heuven (2002)

Identification System



Concept

Orthography

Phonology

COFFEE

コーヒー

/kɔfi/

/ko:hi:/

L2

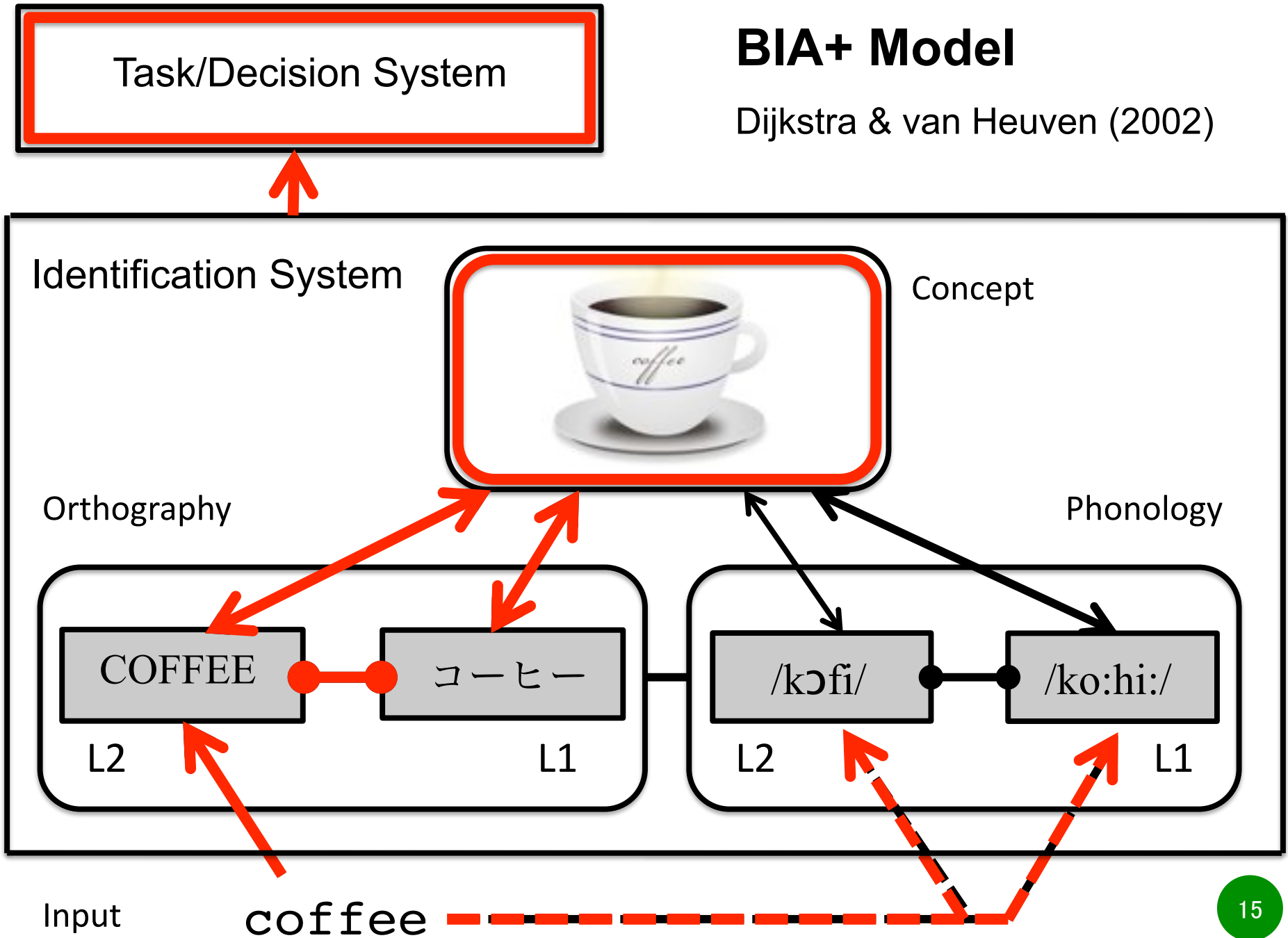
L1

L2

L1

Input

coffee



# Summary

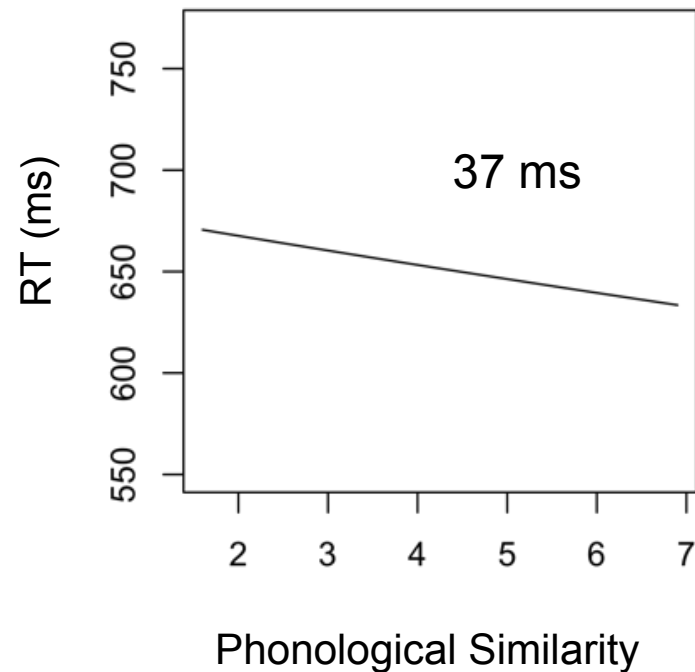
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- Japanese words become co-activated without cross-linguistic orthographic similarity:
- Competition between English target words and Japanese words occurs late. (**English word frequency** \* **Japanese word frequency** at 2<sup>nd</sup> fixation)
- A cross-language **Phonological Similarity** effect arises early.
- A cross-language **Translation Equivalence** effect arises late.



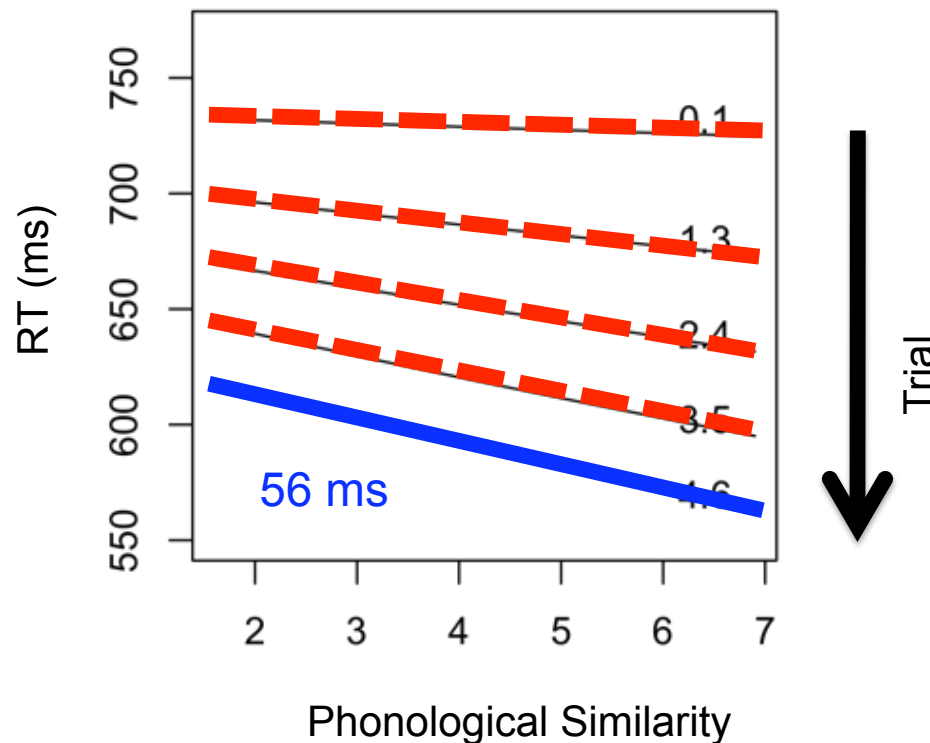
# Phonological Similarity Effect

- Overall, larger cross-language **Phonological Similarity** led to shorter response latencies.



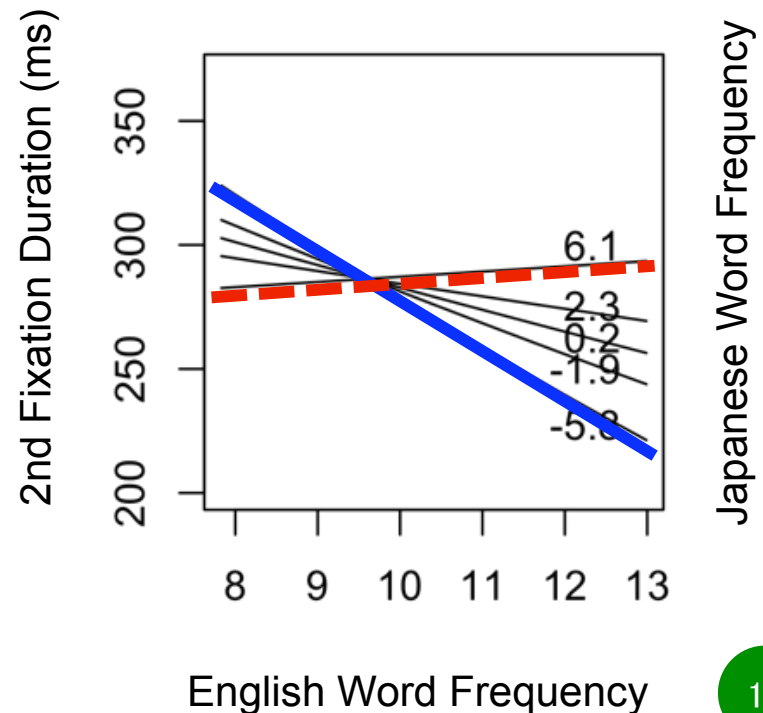
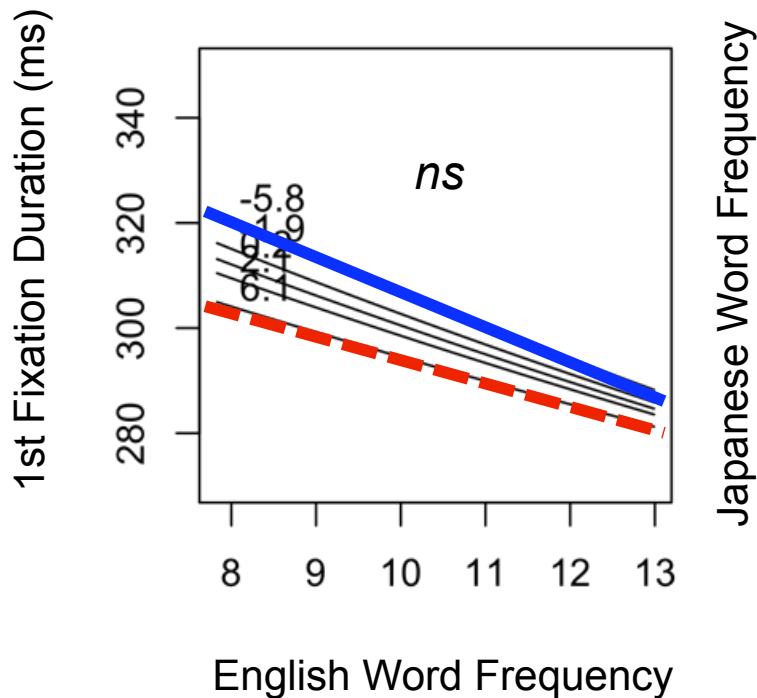
# Consideration of Response Criteria: Phonological Similarity Effect

- **Phonological Similarity** facilitated responses as the experiment went by (a more important as a response criterion).



# L1\*L2 Word Frequency Effect

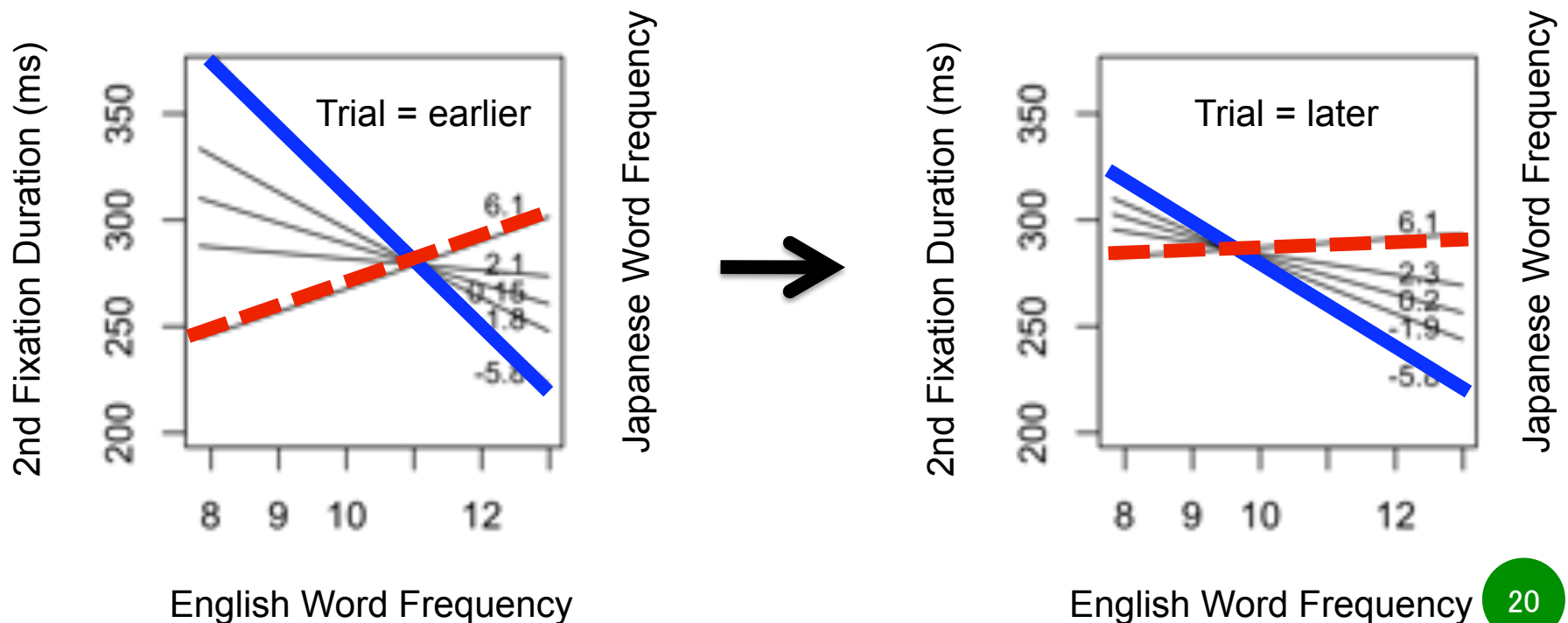
- The competition between L1 and L2 frequencies did not appear at the 1<sup>st</sup> fixation but appeared at the 2<sup>nd</sup> fixation, as predicted.



# Consideration of Response Criteria

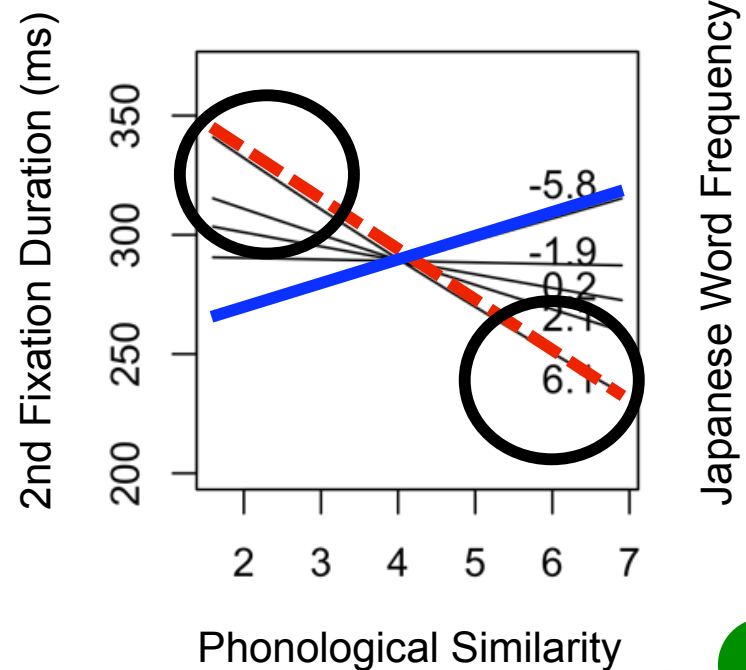
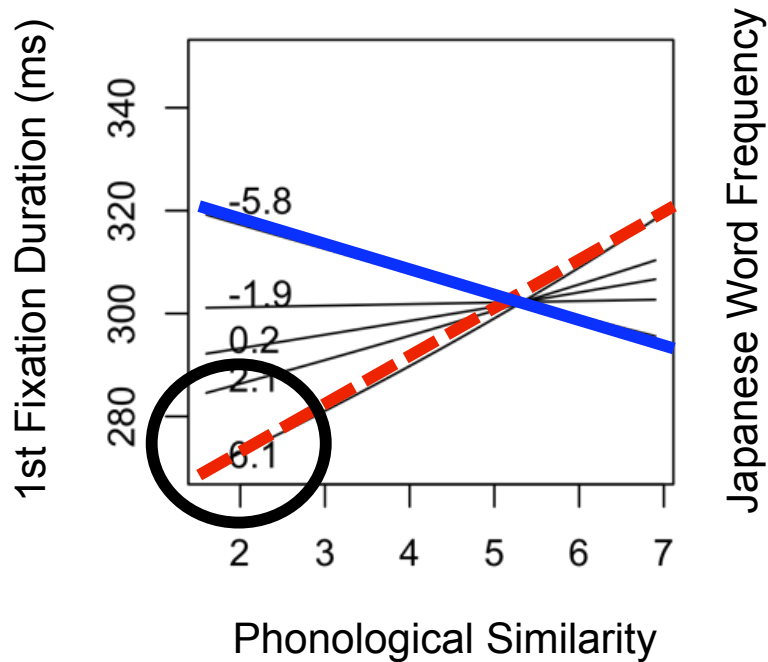
## L1\*L2 Word Frequency Effect

- The magnitude of the late **English Word Frequency** \* **Japanese Word Frequency** became smaller, as the experiment went by (Japanese words as a response criterion).



# Phonological Similarity Effect in Detail

- Very early **Phonological Similarity** effect, as predicted.
- **Phonological Similarity** effects were modulated by **Japanese Word Frequency** at both 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> fixations.



# Fixation Counts

