

XXIV NAUČNI SKUP

# EMPIRIJSKA ISTRAŽIVANJA U PSIHOLOGIJI

23 – 25. MART 2018.

FILOZOFSKI FAKULTET, UNIVERZITET U BEOGRADU

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LABORATORIJA ZA EKSPERIMENTALNU PSIHOLOGIJU  
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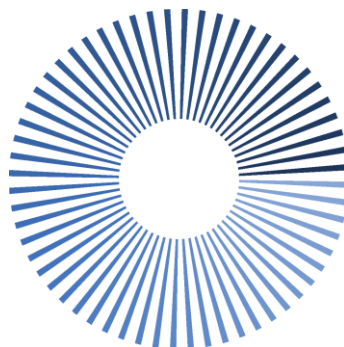
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Participants were first asked to memorize a given law. Every law consisted of two distinct rules (e.g. “It is obligatory to write the homework”). After that, they were presented with a set of specific cases (“John did not write his homework”), and asked to determine the deontic relation to the memorized law (John is in violation). There were three possible deontic relations: (1) in violation, (2) in line, and (3) supererogatory (beyond the call of duty). It was considered normatively correct to punish violators, ignore those in line, and reward the supererogatory (John should be punished). Response time and accuracy were recorded, as well as confidence assessments after each set of “judgments”. There were twelve laws in total, four per content. Results indicate a significant effect of content on confidence levels ( $F(2,154)=5.31, p<.01$ ) with highest level of confidence after moral reasoning. A similar pattern was found for the content effect on accuracy ( $F(2,160)=19.16, p<.01$ ), while response times were shorter in the presence of concrete content ( $F(2,160)=7.65, p<.01$ ). Additionally, three regression analyses were performed (for each rule content separately), where the criterion was metacognitive confidence, and the predictors were response time and accuracy. All three regression models were significant ( $R^2(2,75)=0.22-0.26, p<.01$ ). Confidence levels correlated negatively with response time, and positively with accuracy. These results are in line with previous reasoning research within the dual processing paradigm. In conclusion, the presence of moral content increases both confidence and accuracy, and confidence levels correlate with performance on the deontic reasoning task.

**Keywords:** metacognition, moral reasoning, convention, deontic logic

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NUMBER OF SENSES AND SEMANTIC SETTling DYNAMIC  
MODEL – SPEED/ACCURACY FEEDBACK AS LONGER  
PROCESSING INDUCTION STRATEGY

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Previous semantic ambiguity research typically found processing advantage for polysemous words (multiple related senses) and a disadvantage for homonymous words (multiple unrelated meanings), compared to unambiguous controls (Rodd, Gaskell, & Marslen-Wilson, 2002). However, any task change elicited different effects, so the traditional account needed revision. Semantic Settling Dynamics

model was developed in order to account for the observed effect variations (Armstrong & Plaut, 2016). Basic assumption of the model was that the apparent inconsistencies arose as a consequence of between-task differences in time spent in semantic processing. Shorter processing resulted in polysemy advantage and longer processing in weaker polysemy advantage and homonymy disadvantage. To test this prediction, authors applied a contrast reduction manipulation, where a low contrast condition was expected to prolong processing. In a factorial design (homonymy and polysemy compared at a group level) this manipulation was of a limited success. In an attempt to generalize model predictions to a finer measure of ambiguity, we have previously attempted employing the same manipulation in a correlational design where participants were presented with polysemous words (1-18 senses). Results showed number of senses effect, but the low contrast prolonging was marginal and had no influence on semantics. This indicated a need for an alternative manipulation which in this case was giving speed and accuracy feedback to participants compared to cases where such feedback was absent. This was expected to slow down average reaction time between groups, but its effect on the number of senses was previously unknown.

We presented 160 words with 1-18 senses and 160 pseudowords. Visual lexical decision task was administered to 71 participants, divided into two groups – one that received speed/accuracy feedback after trials and the one that did not. Linear mixed effect regression revealed a significant number of senses effect ( $t(140.14)=-2.339, p=.021$ ), with no significant differences between two feedback conditions. No interaction between feedback conditions and number of senses was found.

Considering the manipulation failed to prolong overall reaction time and as a consequence, semantic processing, it is difficult to rely on these results in evaluation of the model. Further research is required to achieve significant slowdown and decisively assess SSD's ability to predict effect variation on a finer measure of ambiguity.

**Keywords:** semantic ambiguity, lexical processing, polysemy, Semantic Settling Dynamics, feedback

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