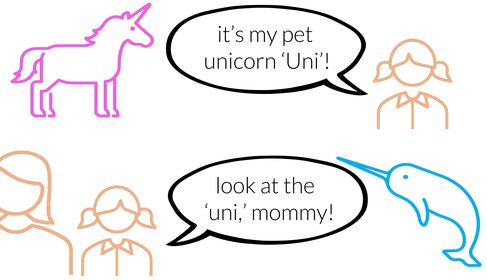
Semantic uncertainty guides the extension of conventions to new referents

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motivation

humans are not only able to **form new referential conventions** for familiar objects,[1] we are also able to **extend** them to new ones.

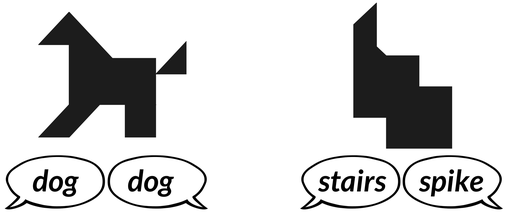


how do new conventions formed for one target generalize to **novel targets** in a highly variable world?[2]

hypothesis

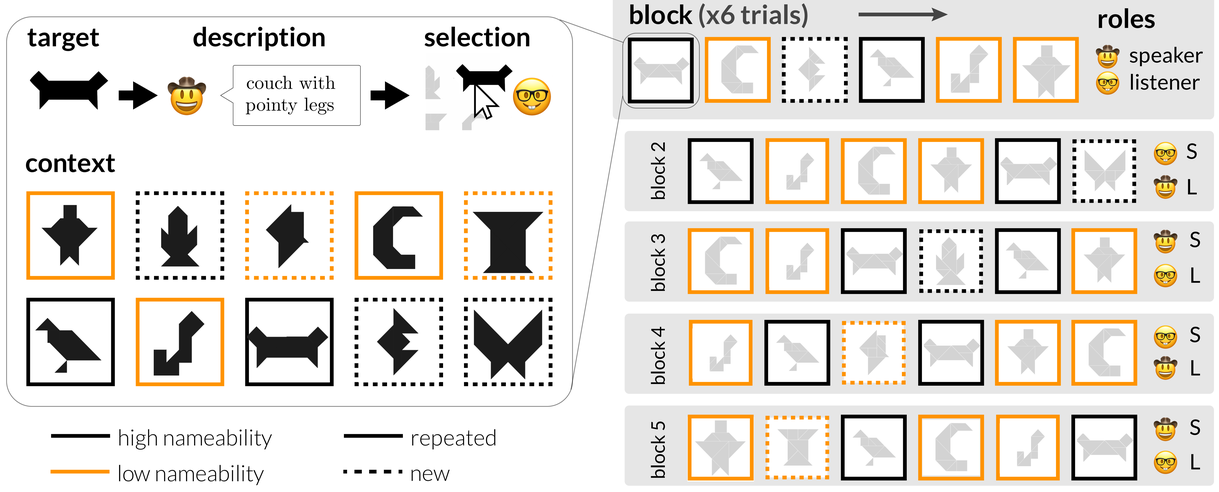
it depends on **nameability**, the *a priori* likelihood that another speaker will share the same label. We predicted that conventions will **generalize more strongly for high-nameability targets.**[3]

dataset: KILOGRAM[4]

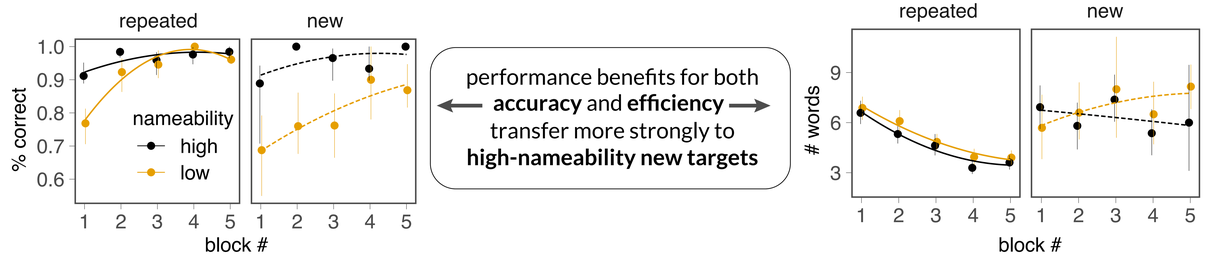


experiment 1 N=60

method

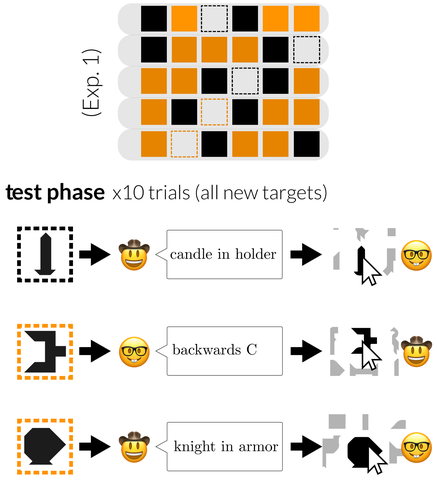


results

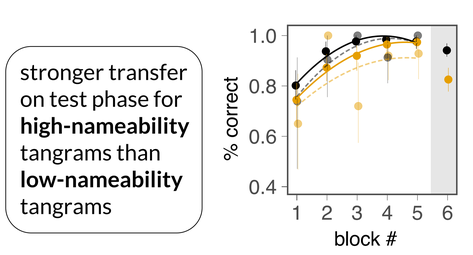


experiment 2 N=60

method



results



discussion

- did speakers generalize better by **aligning their semantic spaces**? or did they learn to recognize the higher-order nameability of objects?
- do conventions generalize lawfully as a function of **similarity**?

references

[1] Clark, H., & Wilkes-Gibbs, D. (1986). Referring as a collaborative process. *Cognition.*

[2] Hupet, M., Seron, X., & Chantraine, Y. (1991). The effects of the codability and discriminability of the referents on the collaborative referring procedure. *British Journal of Psychology.*

[3] Raviv, L., Lupyan, G., & Green, S. (2022). How variability shapes learning and generalization. *Trends in Cognitive Sciences.*

[4] Ji, A., *et al* (2022). Abstract visual reasoning with tangram shapes. *EMNLP.*