

UC Merced

Proceedings of the Annual Meeting of the Cognitive Science Society

Title

Accessing the meanings of sublexical forms during visual word recognition

Permalink

<https://escholarship.org/uc/item/89c5t6fg>

Journal

Proceedings of the Annual Meeting of the Cognitive Science Society, 47(0)

Authors

Salehi, Kyan

de Almeida, Roberto G.

Publication Date

2025

Copyright Information

This work is made available under the terms of a Creative Commons Attribution License, available at <https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/>

Peer reviewed

Accessing the meanings of sublexical forms during visual word recognition

Kyan Salehi

Concordia University, Montreal, Quebec, Canada

Roberto de Almeida

Concordia University, Montreal, Quebec, Canada

Abstract

How are complex words recognized during the early moments of visual word recognition? What roles do full word and constituent frequency play in semantic processing? The present study addressed these questions by employing a word-picture relatedness task with brief stimuli presentations designed to tap the early mapping of orthographic input onto semantic representations. The main manipulation involved first presenting a picture depicting the target word's constituent (200 ms), followed by the presentation of the target word (56 ms). We compared the rate of positive relatedness judgements elicited by picture-word pairs between suffixed (SKI-skier), pseudo-suffixed (MOTH-mother), and non-suffixed words (CAN-canoe). Results suggest that the "constituents" of all three word types are semantically accessed, although with a suffixed word advantage. Regression analyses did not corroborate behavioral findings as no full word and constituent frequency effects were obtained. We discuss the implications of these findings for models of the visual word recognition system.