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Can paradigmatic associations be implicitly formed through parallel contexts?

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Abstract

The ability to form paradigmatic associations plays a crucial role in language comprehension and generalization. Previous studies have demonstrated that paradigmatic associations can be implicitly formed through sequential contexts even in nonlinguistic environment. In this study, we additionally examined whether paradigmatic associations can be implicitly formed when the contexts are presented in parallel with the target items. The results did not provide evidence for forming a paradigmatic association. We have discussed several possible factors that may have contributed to the results, which would help generate future experimental designs that are more sensitive in capturing the formation of paradigmatic associations.