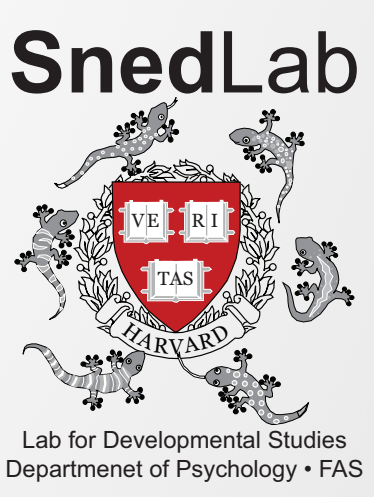
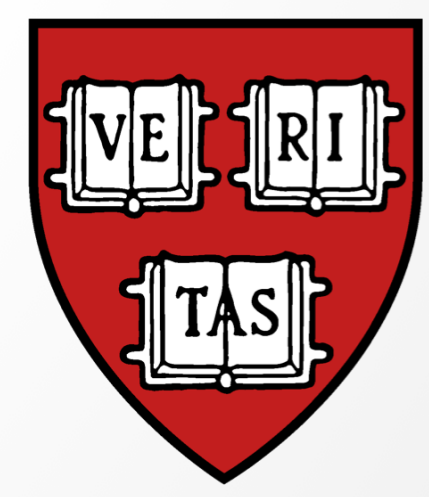


# Passive priming requires function word overlap

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## 1. Introduction

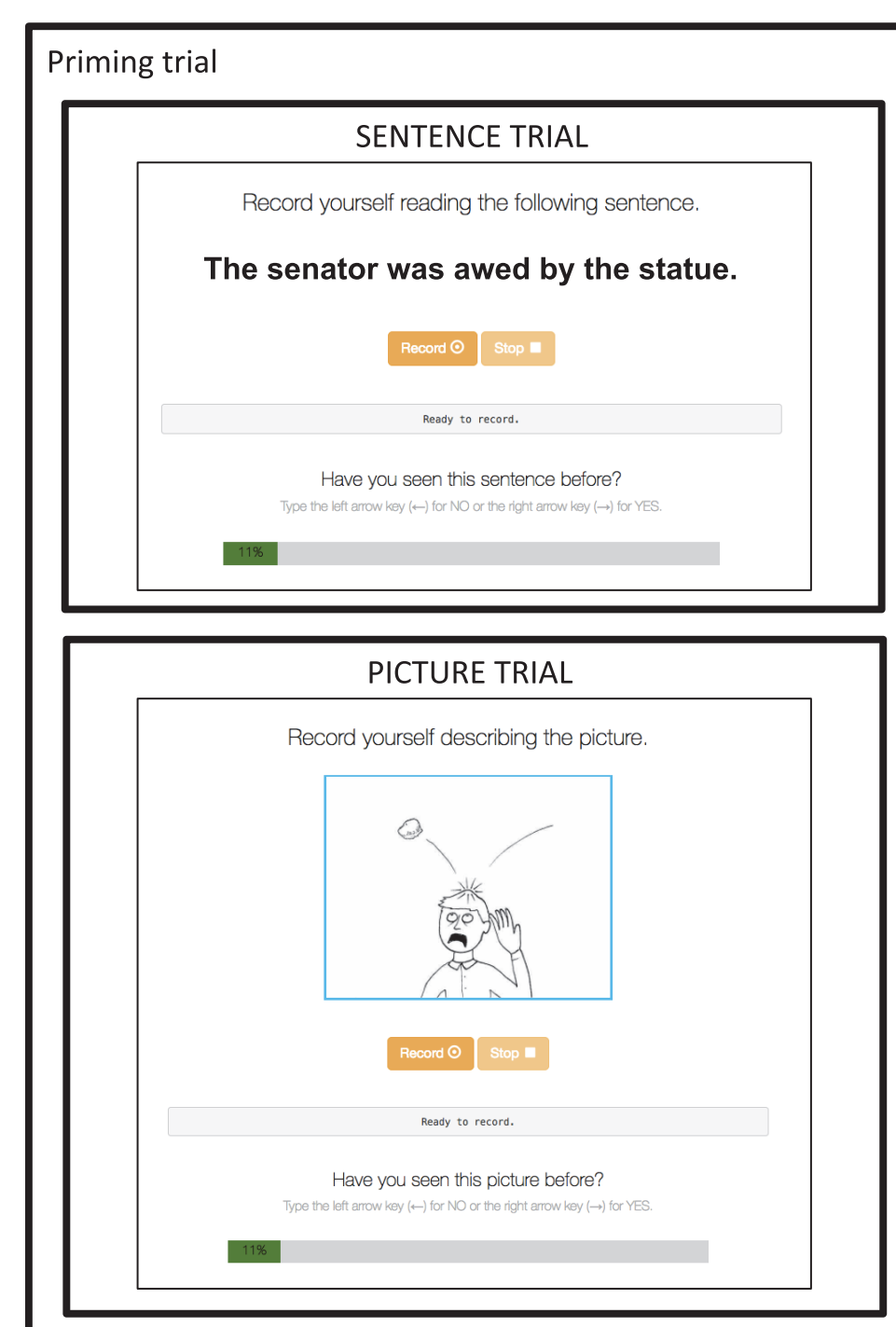
- **Structural priming**: tendency for speakers to reuse previously encountered sentence structures (Bock, 1986)
- Some of the strongest evidence for the cognitive reality of abstract structural representations in language (e.g., Branigan & Pickering, 2017)
- Independent of specific lexical items, verbal morphology, metrical structure, semantic roles (Bock, 1986; Bock & Loebell, 1990; Pickering & Branigan, 1998)
- Evidence for tree priming?
  - Bock & Loebell (1990): (1) + (2)
    - All with preposition *by*
- What role is *by* playing?

(1) The missing geologist	[was smothered] <sub>V</sub>	[by the volcano] <sub>PP-agent</sub>	= <b>passive</b>
(2) The missing geologist	[was wandering] <sub>V</sub>	[by the volcano] <sub>PP-location</sub>	= <b>by-locative</b>
(3) The missing geologist	[has wandered] <sub>V</sub>	[into the volcano] <sub>PP-location</sub>	= <b>non-by-locative</b>
(4) The missing geologist	[discovered] <sub>V</sub> [a new plant] <sub>NP</sub>	[by the volcano] <sub>PP-location</sub>	= <b>by-transitive</b>

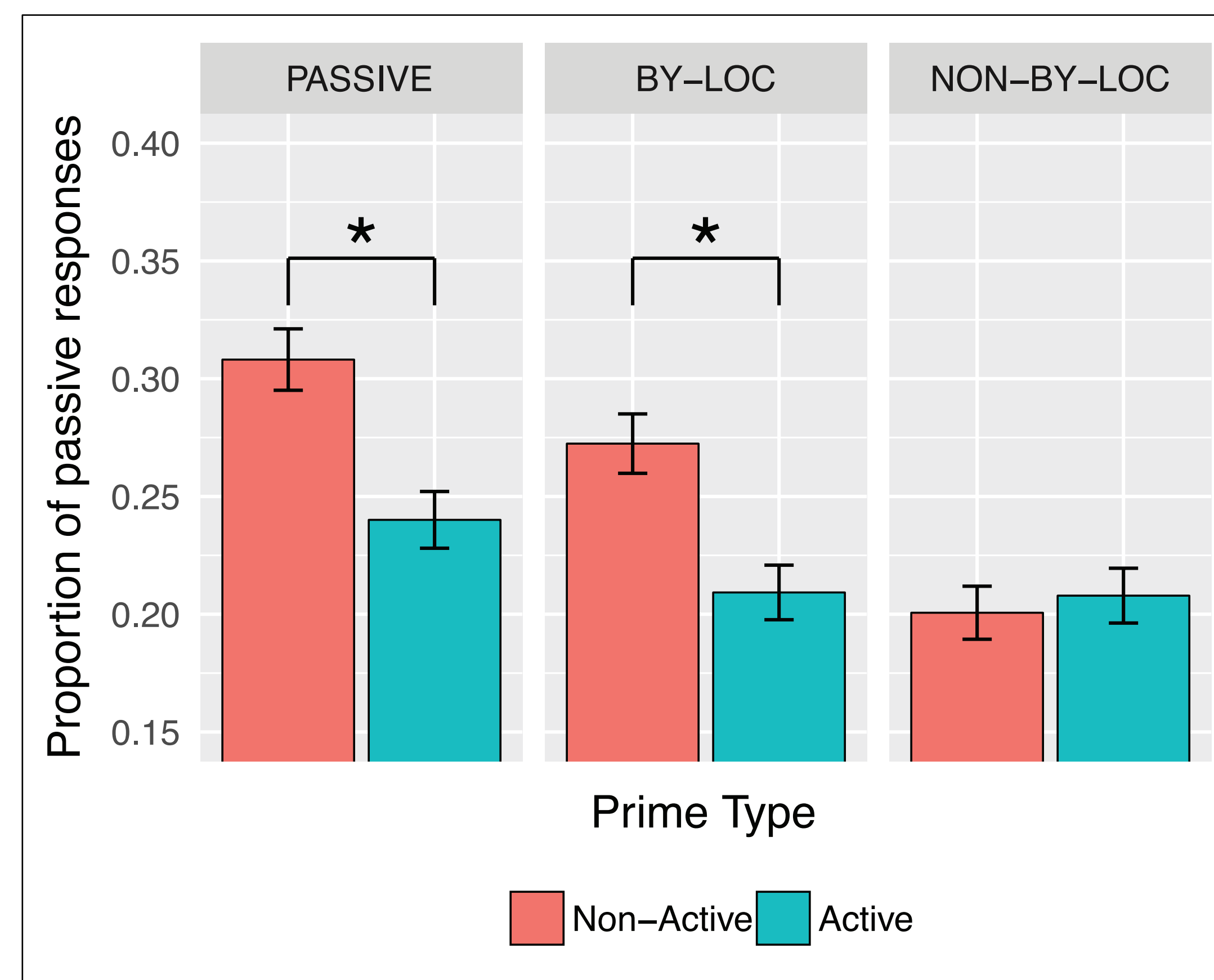
## 2. Methods & Results

### Picture description on MTurk

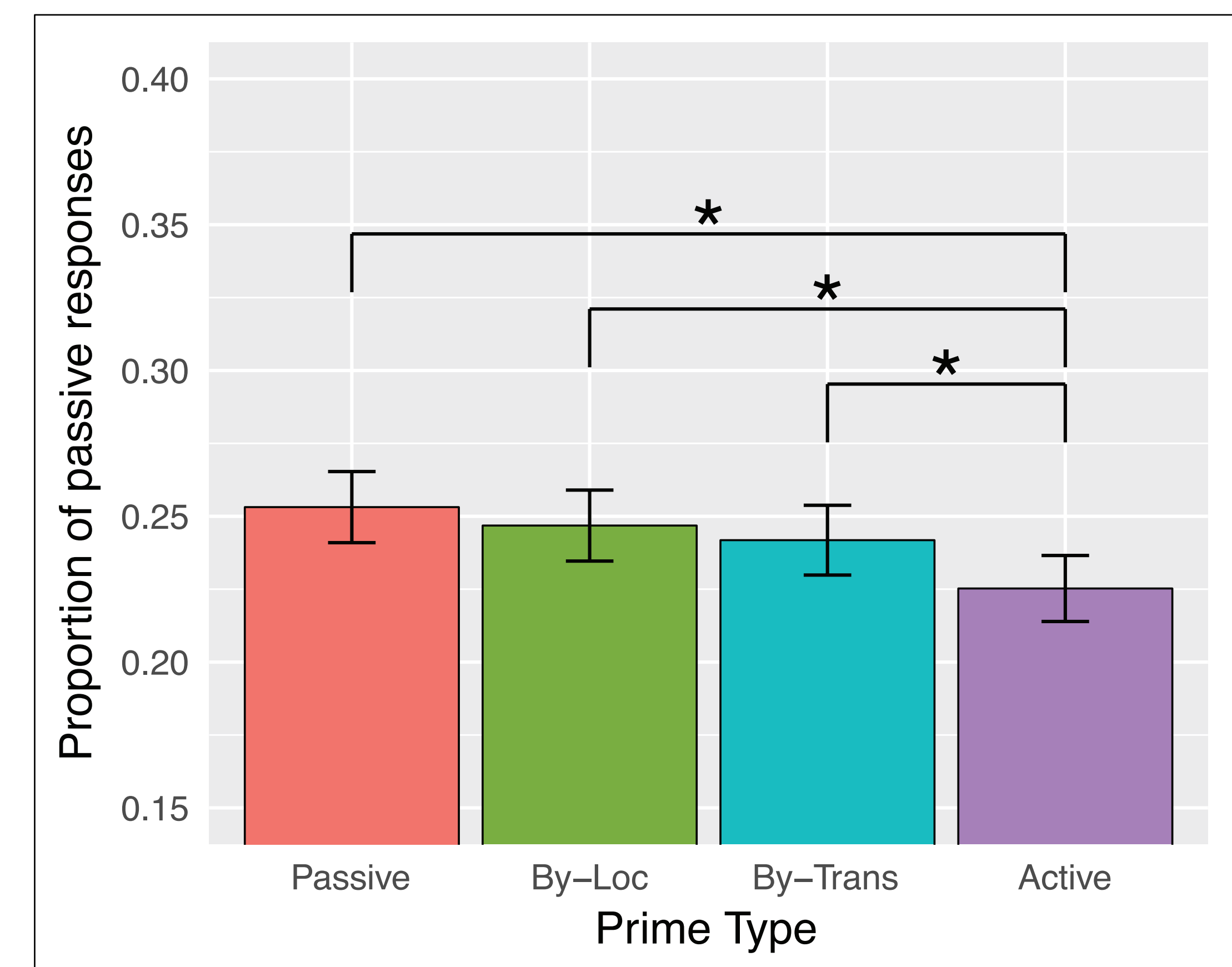
- **DV**: proportion of passive productions / passives+actives
- **Primes**: see box
- Experiment 1 (N=300):
  - (1), (2), (3) + active
  - Between-subjects
- Experiment 2 (N=200):
  - (1), (2), (4) + active
  - Within-subjects



### Experiment 1



### Experiment 2



## 3. Discussion

- Presence of *by* is **sufficient** to prime passives ((2) + (4)) and **necessary** for locatives to prime passives ((2) vs. (3))
  - Cf. short passives also prime passives (Messenger et al., 2011): parallel information structure may encourage priming (e.g., Vernice et al., 2012)
- Shared function or morphology is required for “structural” priming
- Consistent with constructionist approaches (e.g., Goldberg, 1995) and mainstream generative grammar

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