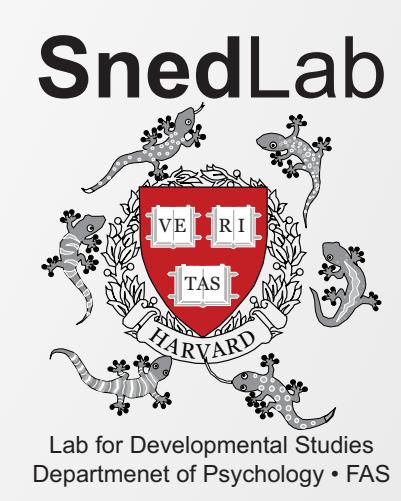
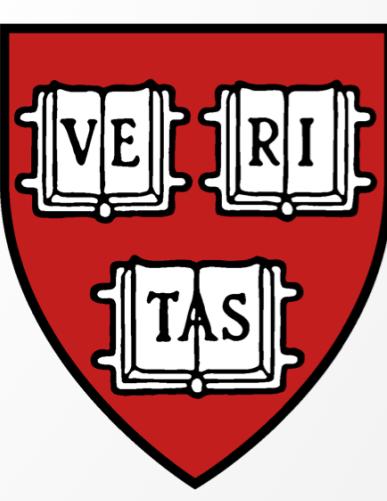


Passive priming requires function word overlap

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1. Introduction

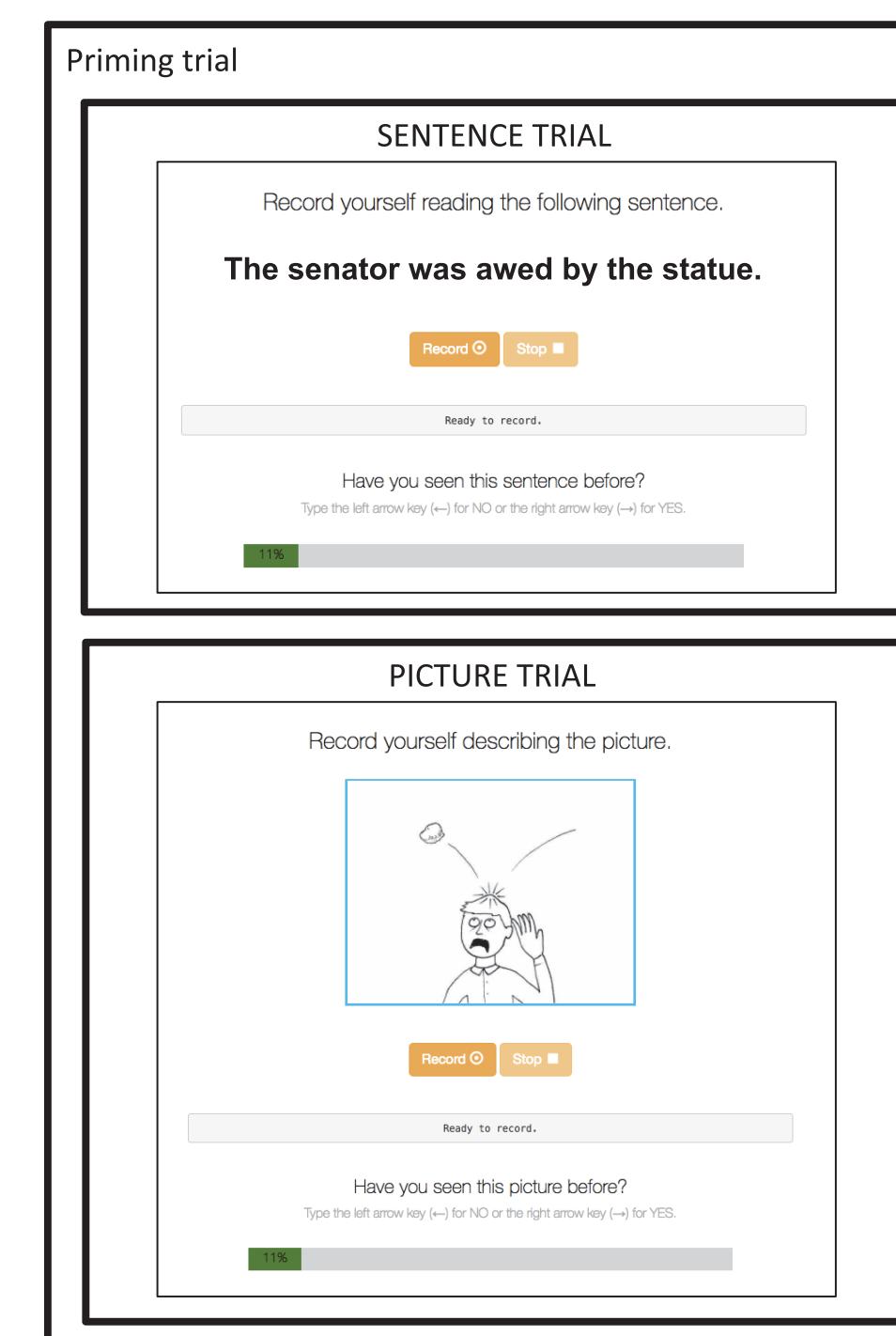
- **Structural priming:** tendency for speakers to reuse previously encountered sentence structures (Bock, 1986)
- Some of the strongest evidence for the cognitive reality of abstract structural representations in language (e.g., Branigan & Pickering, 2017)
- Independent of specific lexical items, verbal 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] _V	[by the volcano] _{PP-agent}	=passive
(2) The missing geologist	[was wandering] _V	[by the volcano] _{PP-location}	=by-locative
(3) The missing geologist	[has wandered] _V	[into the volcano] _{PP-location}	=non-by-locative
(4) The missing geologist	[discovered] _V [a new plant] _{NP}	[by the volcano] _{PP-location}	=by-transitive

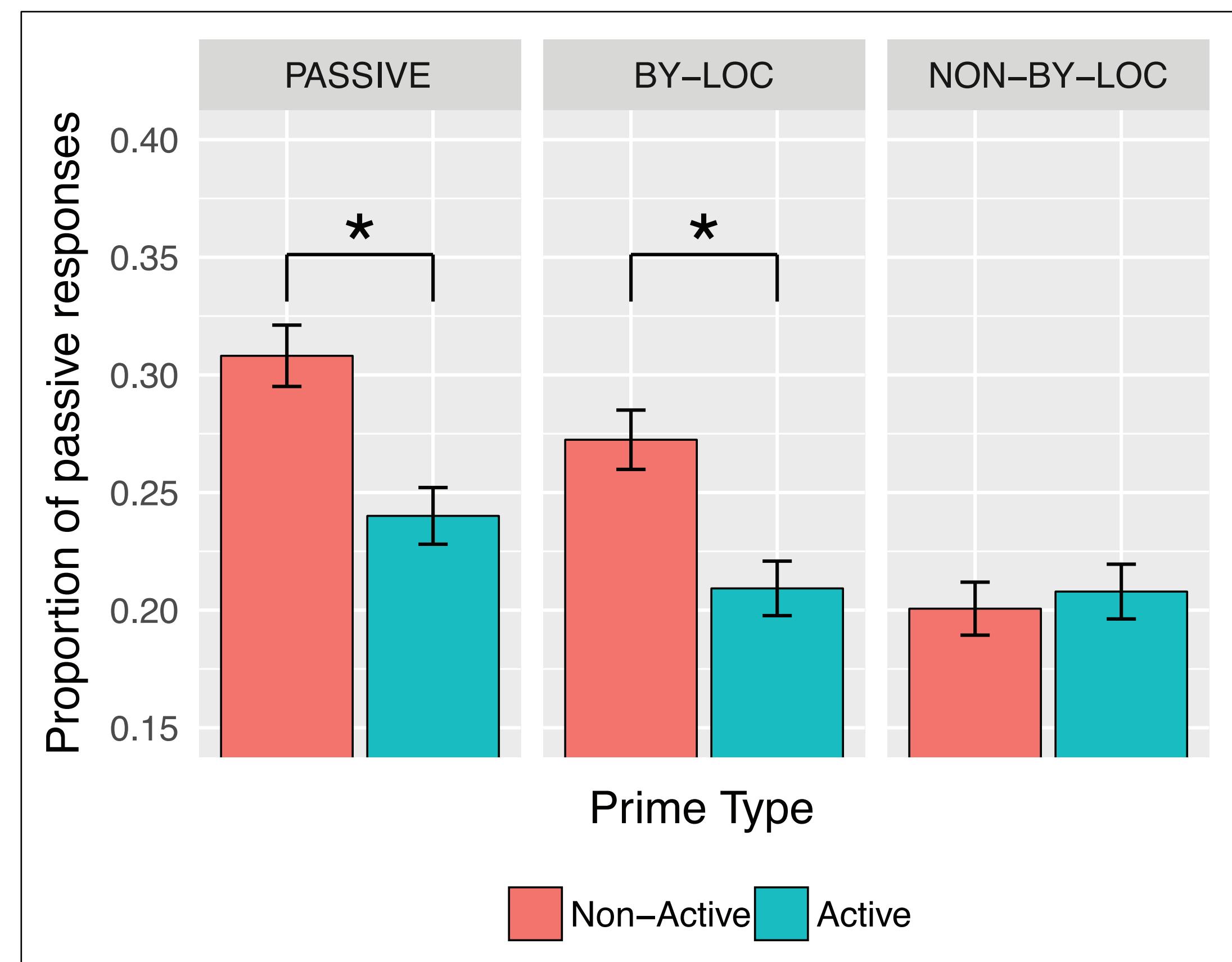
2. Methods & Results

Picture description on MTurk

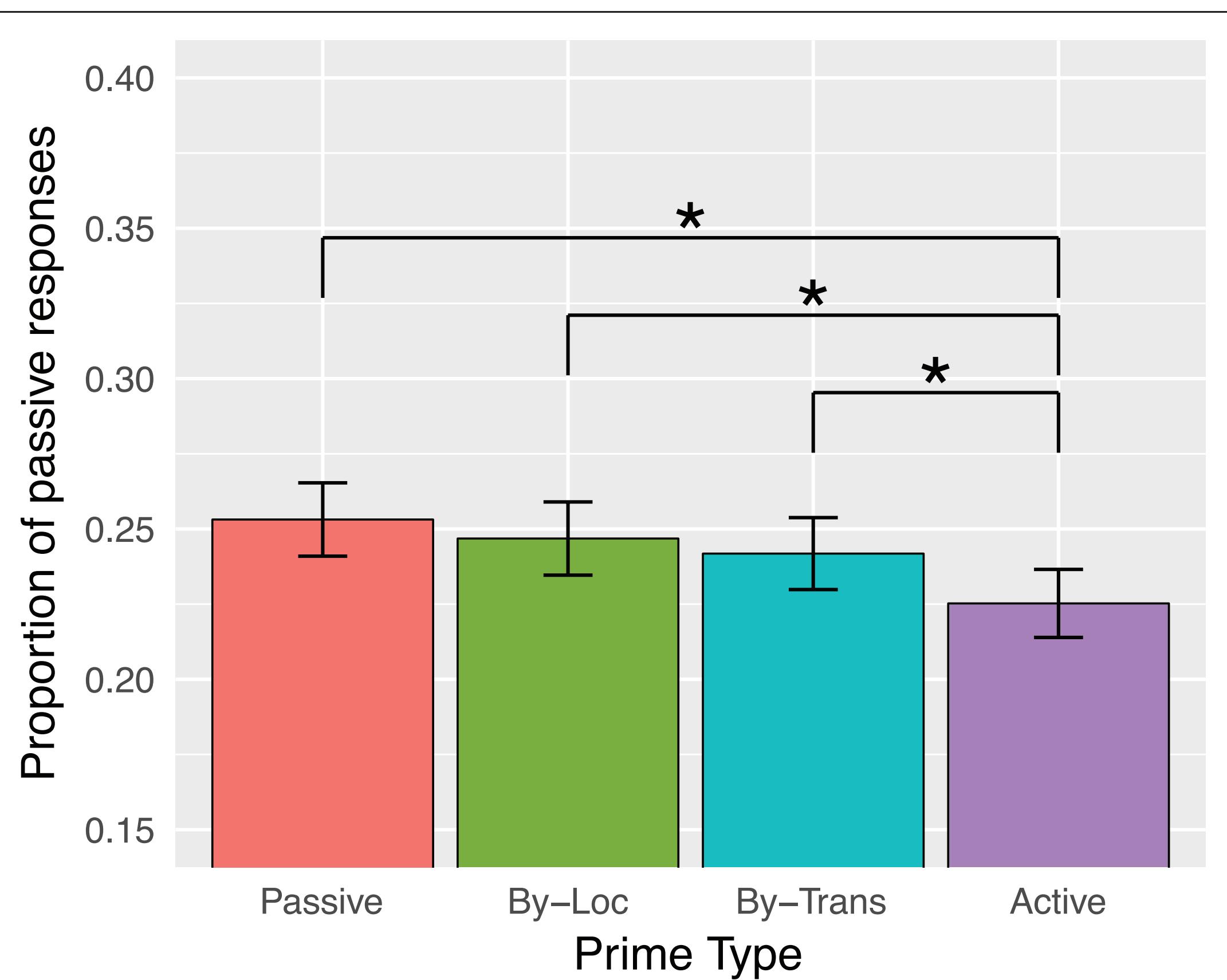
- DV: proportion of passive productions / passives+actives
- **Primes:** see box
- Experiment 1 (N=300):
 - (1), (2), (3) + active
 - Between-subjects
- Experiment 2 (N=200):
 - (1), (2), (4) + active
 - Within-subjects



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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