

Good-eNough Production and the English *Spray-Load* Alternation

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Background

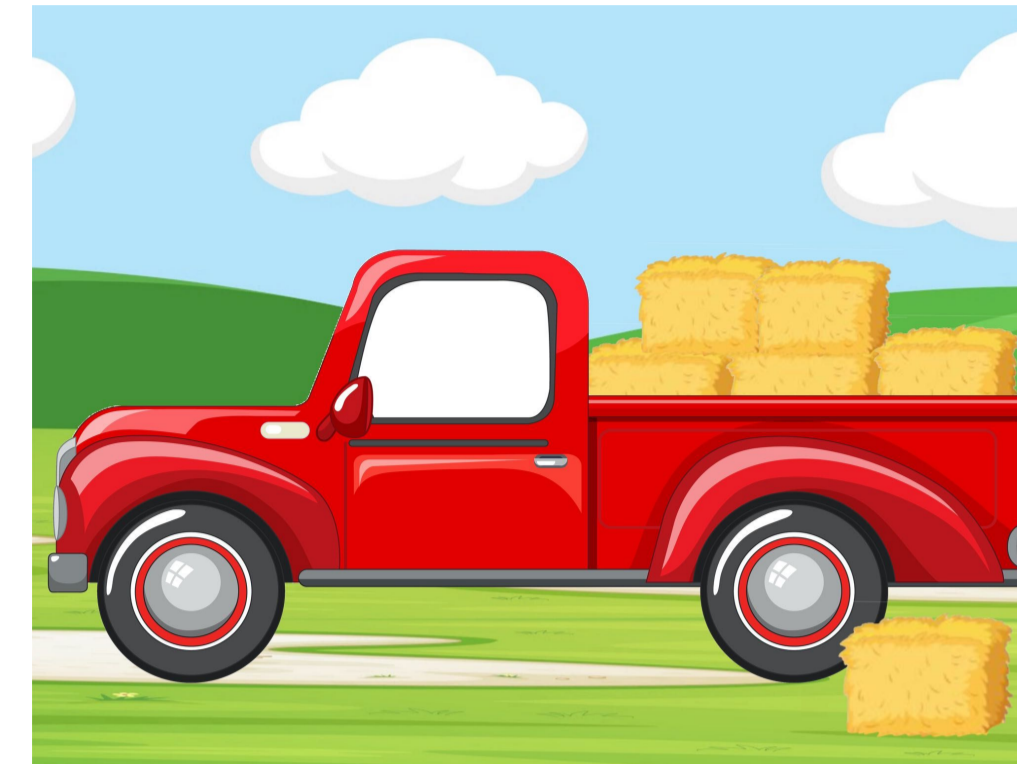
- How do speakers choose between similar alternatives, like (1) *load the truck with hay* and (2) *load hay on the truck*?
 - Semantics of the Forms differ (“Holistic Effect”)** [1, 4, 6]
 - Location-first form entails location is entirely affected
 - Others argue against an entailment, report that the ‘entailment’ is cancellable or pragmatically enforced
 - Accessibility- Based Production (ABP):** [2, 3]
 - More accessible nouns are produced earlier
 - ABP experiments are based on equally true alternatives
 - Good-eNough Production (GNP):** [5]
 - Speakers trade off accessibility with message alignment
 - Past GNP experiments use single-word utterances

Findings

- Support for a modified holistic effect, but no holistic entailment, for some verbs
- More accessible nouns are produced earlier, even when the resulting utterance is not meaning equivalent
- No evidence for GNP tradeoff: more similar items not more susceptible to accessibility effects

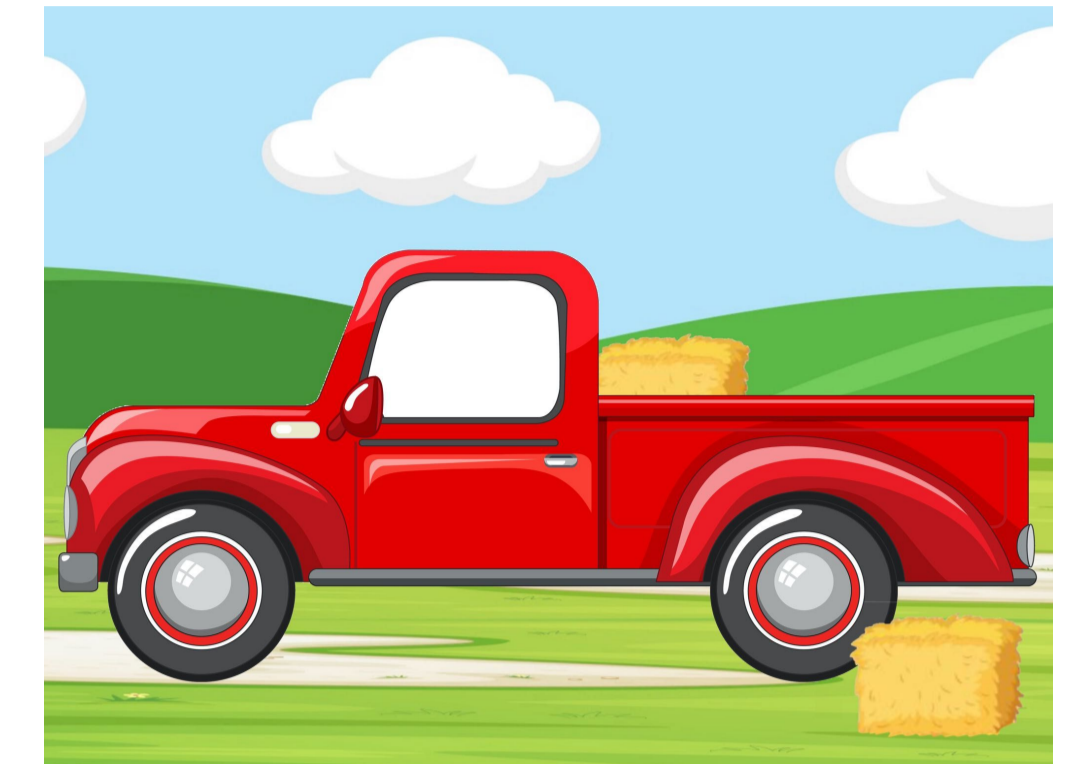
Production Experiment: Methods

Sam had a truck. He *loaded*...



Location-Given, Fully-Affected

Sam had a truck. He *loaded*...

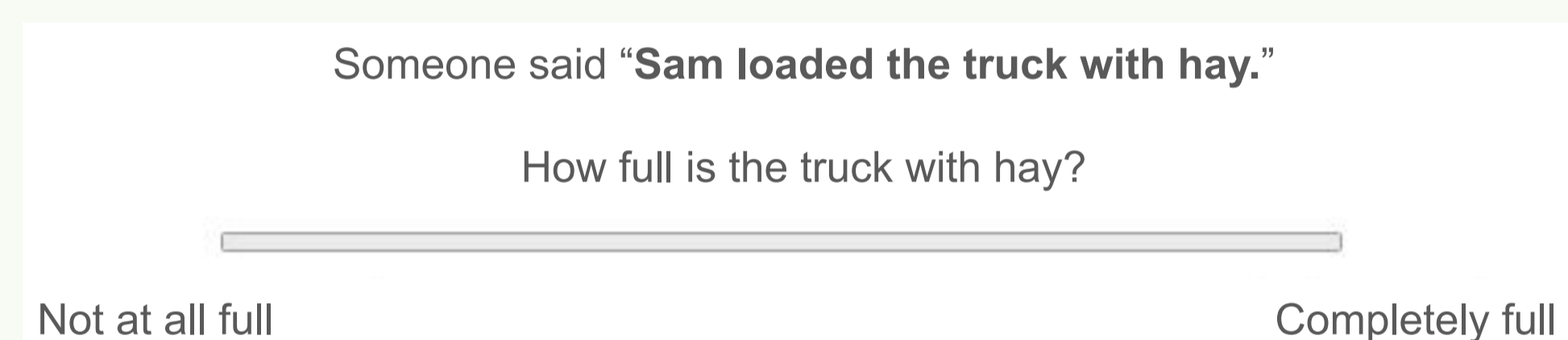


Location-Given, Partially-Affected

- Sam loaded the **truck** with hay. *Location-first*
- Sam loaded **hay** on the truck. *Substance-first*

- English L1 Prolific workers (after exclusions n=183)
- Online picture-description task, spoken production
- Read prompt aloud, completing it by describing an image
- Noun-name learning phase, followed by:
 - 16 *spray-load* trials (*load, spray, spread, stuff*)
 - 16 control trials (*cover, fill, put, place*)
 - 4 filler trials (*bring, show*)

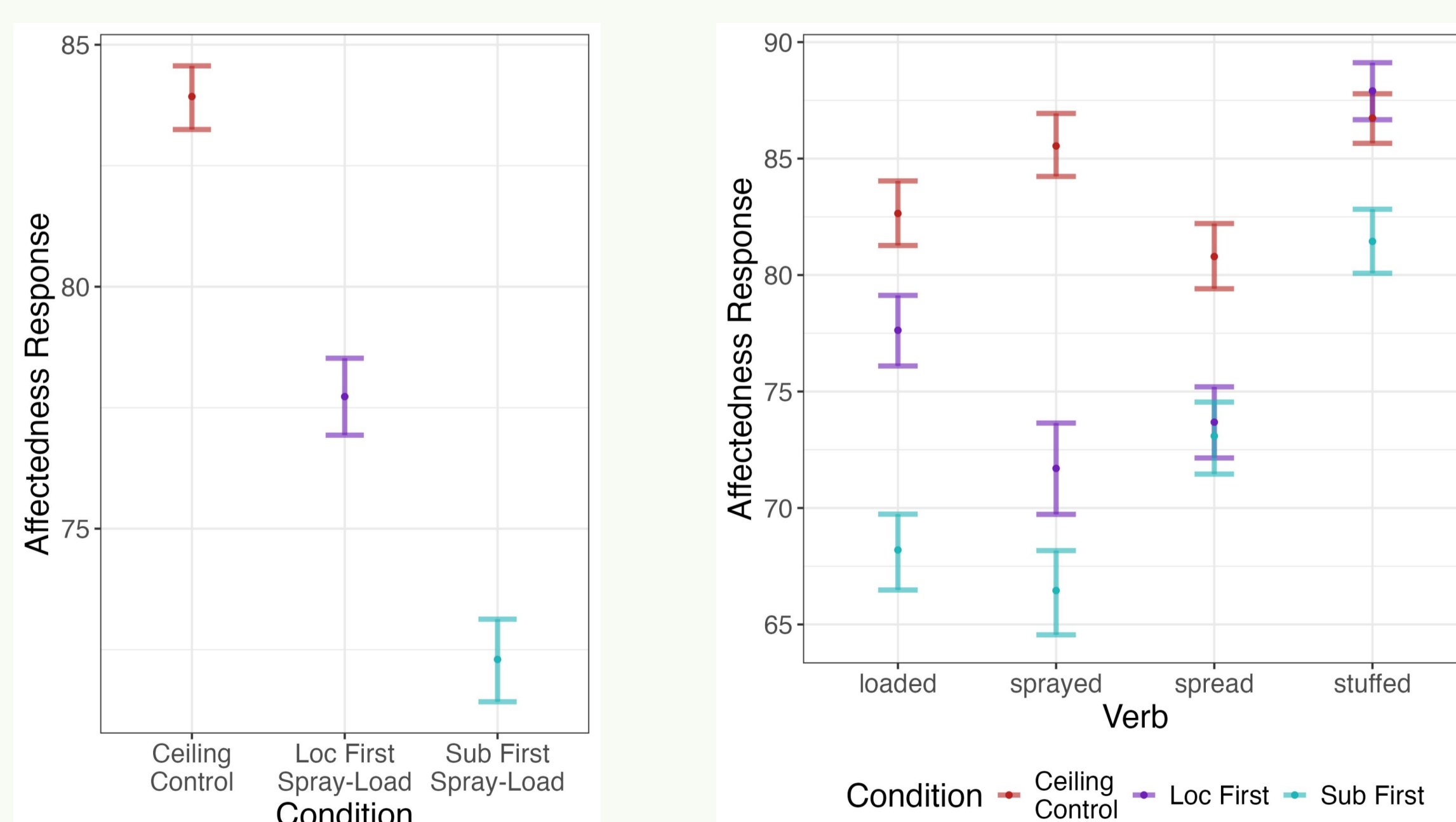
Comprehension Experiment: Methods



- Prolific participants (n = 349) read *spray-load* sentences and judged how affected the location objects would be
 - Sub-first condition: *load the hay on the truck*
 - Loc-first condition: *load the truck with hay*
 - Ceiling control: *fill the truck with hay*
 - Floor controls: *drain the water from the tub.*

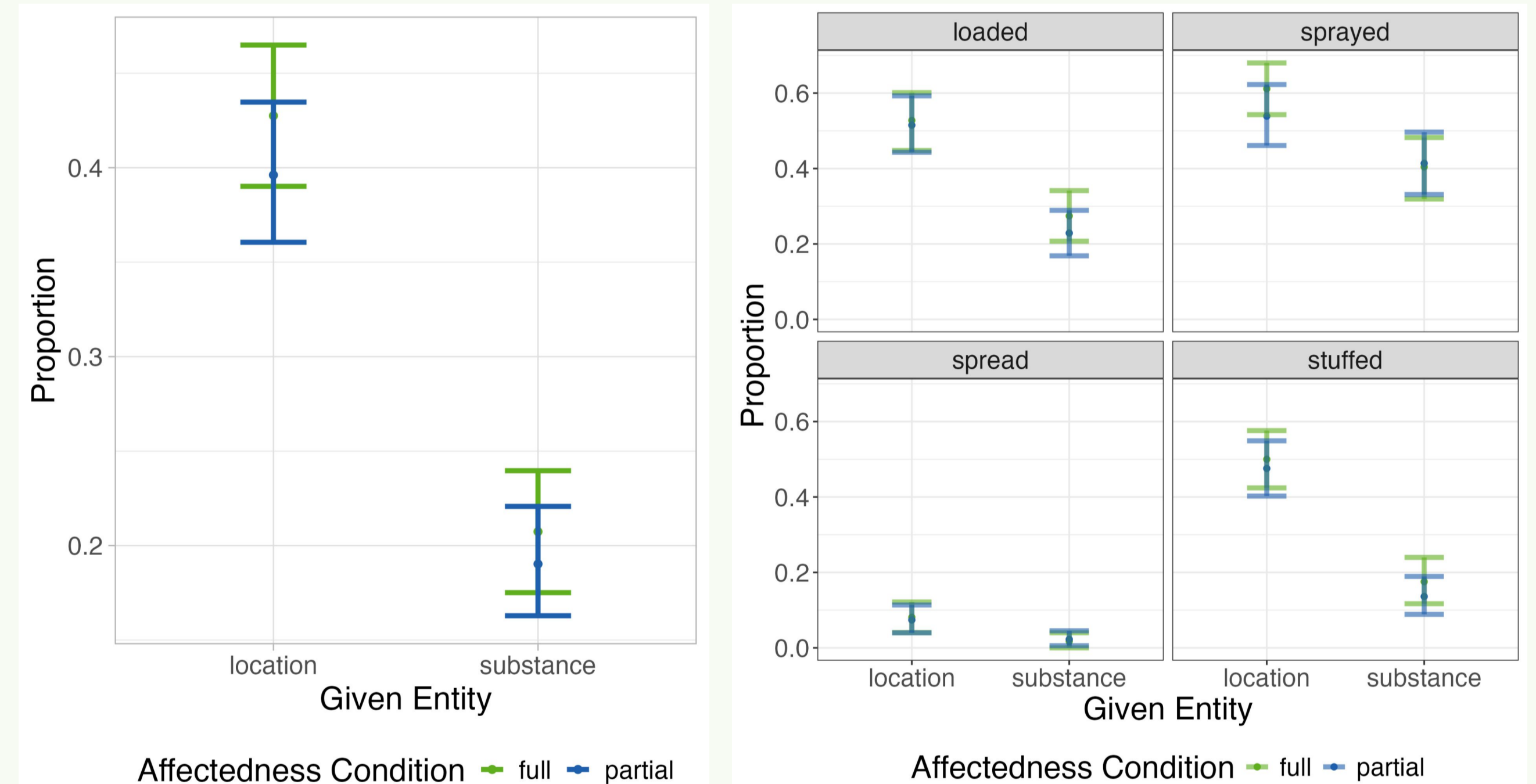
Comprehension Experiment: Results

- Overall, locations more affected in location-first than substance-first ($\beta = 5.63$ $SE = 0.63$ $P < .001$)
- Locations more affected in ceiling control sentences than location-first *spray-load* forms ($\beta = -5.97$ $SE = 0.96$ $P < .001$)



Mean rating for “How affected is the location?”
Left: By condition, overall; Right: By condition + verb

Production Experiment: Results



Proportion of responses in Location-first form.
Left: over all verbs; Right: by verb

- Given locations are associated with more location-first forms ($\beta = 1.69$ $SE = 0.33$ $P < .001$)
- Fully-affected condition marginally associated with more location-first forms ($\beta = 0.19$ $SE = 0.11$ $P = .09$)
- Verbs differ in their baseline preference for substance-first form, and in the strength of givenness effect
- No support for the GNP prediction: items which are more similar in meaning do not have stronger accessibility effects
 - Location-substance pairs with larger meaning difference in comprehension associated with more location-first forms ($\beta = .12$ $SE = .01$ $P < .001$) but no interaction between meaning difference and givenness ($\beta = .02$ $SE = .02$ $P = .31$)
 - Relative to *load*, other verbs have more similar meanings between location- and substance-first forms (see left)
 - But they do not have stronger givenness effects:
 - Spray* reduces givenness ($\beta = -.51$ $SE = .23$ $P < .05$)
 - Stuff* increases it ($\beta = .47$ $SE = .25$ $P < .1$)

