

ABSTRACT

One of the linguistic levels in which language repetition occurs is syntax, in which repetition is not thought to be always conscious and might help us simplify production and comprehension processes. Repetition of syntax is found both when people repeat groups of words or phrases and consequently repeat syntactic structures, and when people repeat syntactic structures using different words. The latter is more interesting for studies of syntactic repetition, since the process of repeating syntactic structures without repeating words is thought to be unconscious. The few works that considered the effect of lexical repetition in syntactic repetition had conflicting results. We analyze syntactic similarity controlling for lexical similarity in Reddit conversations. The method used for the analyses is very similar to [Healey et al. \(2014\)](#), extending it to look at differences between dyadic and non dyadic conversations. We examine (1) whether syntactic similarity in dyadic conversations happens more than what is expected by chance, (2) whether there is a decay in similarity as the distance between prime and target increases, and (3) whether dyadic conversations repeat more than non dyadic conversations. Results indicate that (1) we avoid repeating each other's syntactic structures when in dyadic conversations, (2) there is no significant decay as the distance between prime and target increases, and (3) non dyadic conversations repeat syntax less than dyadic conversations.