
The Role of Foreign Language and Grammatical Structure in Health Decision Making: An Experimental approach

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Abstract

The language used to present an argument has long been argued to influence people's reaction to that argument. This study examined how language and grammatical structure influenced response to health-related dilemmas. We investigated whether medical students' willingness to receive a medical treatment was influenced by the language and the grammatical structures used. Saudi participants read health-related dilemmas using different adverbial modifiers and quantifiers in Arabic or in English. The participants were randomly assigned to one of four conditions. The results showed that the participants were susceptible to a foreign language effect, but not to a grammatical structure effect.

Keywords: Foreign language effect, Grammatical structure effect, Health decisions, Health scenarios.

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