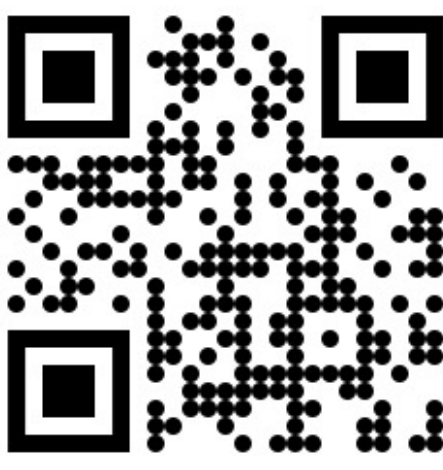




Misarticulation: Theory and Evidence

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Misarticulation is the subjective sense that what one communicated did not fully convey what was in their mind.

SUMMARY

- This project examines the experience of ‘**misarticulation**’, that is, the subjective experience that one has not fully conveyed what was in their mind.
- **Almost everyone** surveyed (97%, Studies 1a-c, N=243) could recall and describe an instance of misarticulation.
- Misarticulation is associated with **negative emotions** and can leave people reluctant to share information they possess.
- Across 2 studies, we show that misarticulation can be manipulated using a design where **knowledge is held constant**, suggesting this experience does not occur just due to difference in the amount of knowledge possessed.
- We propose that misarticulation can occur either via an **internal channel** or **external channel**.
 - Through the **internal channel**, the communicator internally realizes (e.g., through self-talk) that what they did or will communicate does not fully convey their mental concept.
 - Through the **external channel**, the communicator gets external feedback (e.g., from an interaction partner or audience member) that makes them realize their communication did not fully convey their mental concept.

STUDY 1: DESCRIPTIVE RECALL STUDY

METHODS:

This study examines the features of misarticulation by asking people to recall an experience and respond to questions about this experience.

RESULTS:

- **Prevalence of the experience:** 97% of survey respondents report having felt misarticulation in their lives.
- **Frequency of misarticulation:** 61% respondents report feeling misarticulation at least once a month.
- **Audience of communication:** 82% respondents report having felt misarticulation while communicating with close others (friends, spouses, peers, family).
- **Content of communication:** Most respondents indicated that they had either been trying to ‘describe a thought or idea’ (41%) or were attempting to describe their emotions (37%).
- **Resulting feelings:** respondents report feeling frustrated (56%), dumb (39%), confused (39%), embarrassed (36%), and judged (27%).

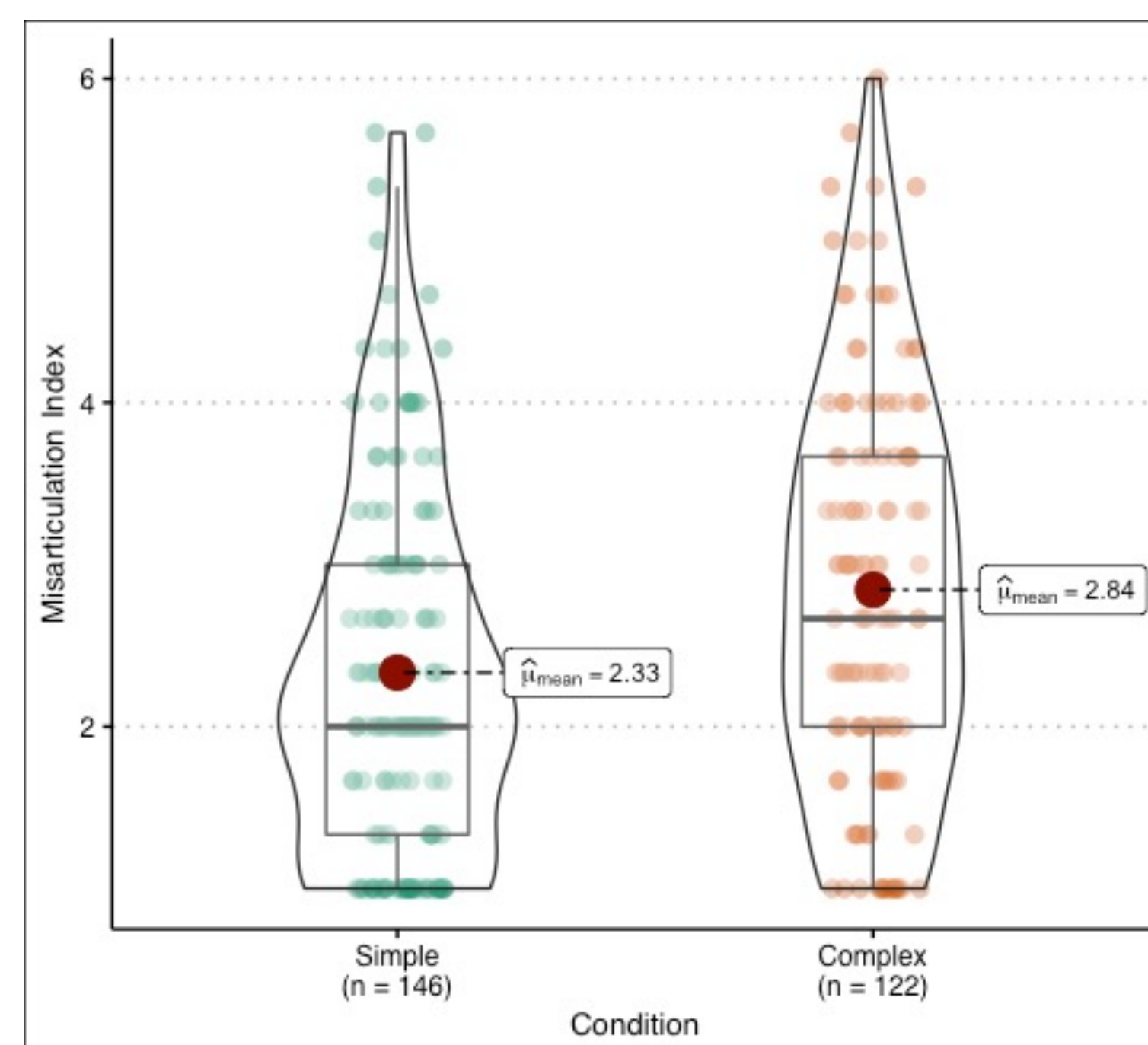
STUDY 2: TEACHING CONCEPTS

METHODS:

Participants learned a new ‘word’ through classifying a series of images, and then translated it into English. They were assigned to learn either a complex concept (e.g., democracy) or a simple one (e.g., vehicle).

RESULTS:

As predicted, complex concepts, once learned, led to more misarticulation.



$t_{Welch}(248.69)=-3.52, p=0.001, CI_{95\%}[-0.68, -0.19], n_{obs}=268$

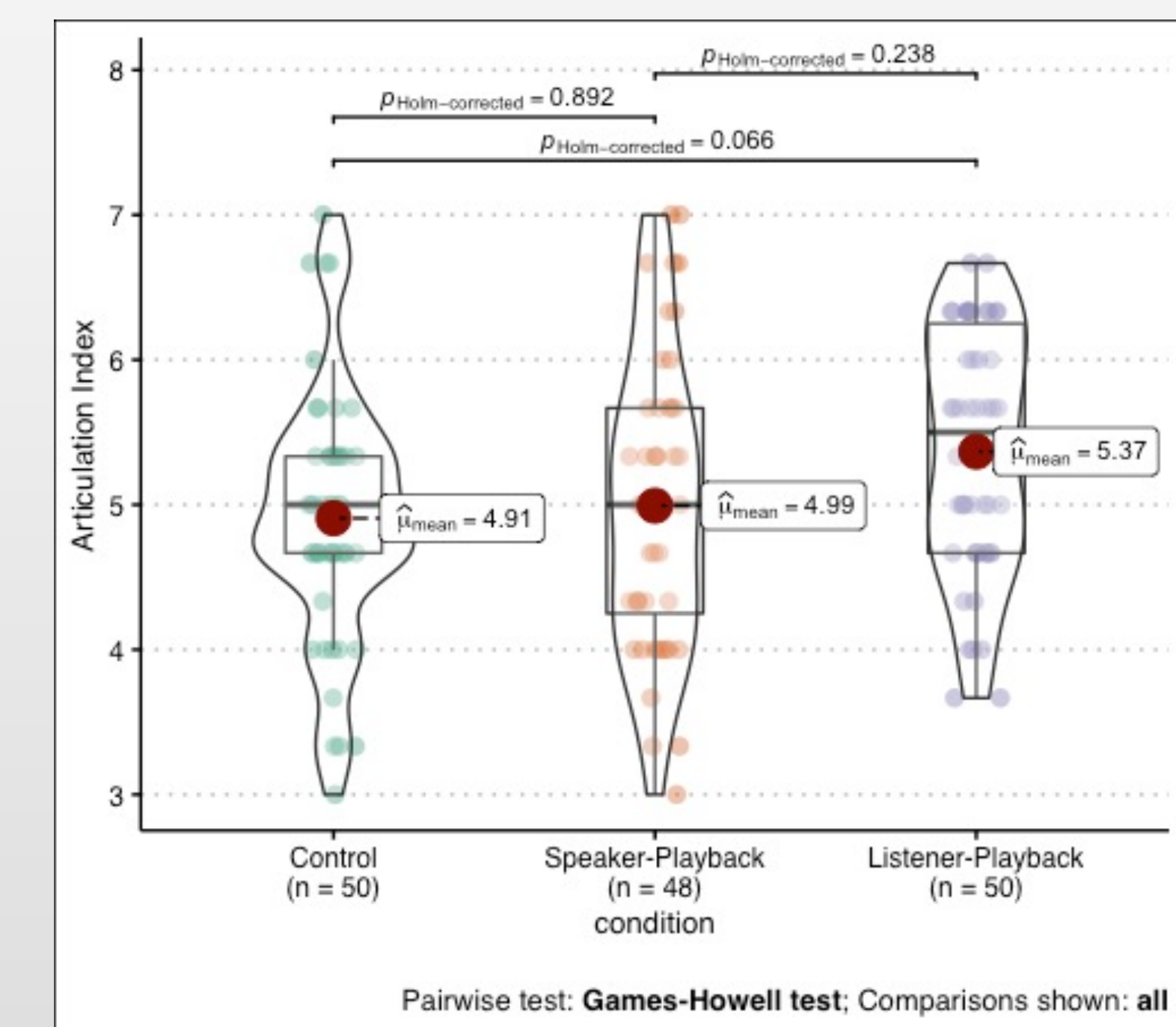
STUDY 3: SHARING TREASURED EXPERIENCES

METHODS:

Participants were paired with a stranger and asked to share a treasured experience. Participants either heard the listener recalling their experience, or a playback of their own telling..

RESULTS:

We find that the communicator’s sense of misarticulation decreased when hearing the listener play back what they recall.



$F_{Welch}(2,95.68)=4.02, p=0.021, CI_{95\%}[0.00, 0.16], n_{obs}=148$