

# Processing Grammatical Evidentiality by Bashkir-Russian Bilinguals

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## Objective

to examine attrition of the evidentiality category in Bashkir-Russian bilinguals resulting from extensive exposure to Russian language (L2)

### Bashkir language

Turkic language

More than 1 mln speakers (Lewis et al. 2015)

Mostly spoken in Bashkortostan, Russia

### Evidentiality category

- different markers for firsthand and nonfirsthand information in past verb tenses
- Grammatical evidentiality has been found to be vulnerable to attrition in bilinguals (Arslan et al., 2015a, 2015b) and functional convergence with categories of L2 (Sanchez, 2004)



## Participants

- born in Russia
- consider Bashkir as a native language
- acquired Russian by the age of 6

### Bashkir-dominant group

- 9 participants, 8 females, age 25-44, mean age-42
- recruited in a Bashkir-speaking village Rakhmetovo
- most of their daily communication was in Bashkir

### Russian-dominant group

- 18 participants, 7 females, age 18-36, mean age-25
- Live in big cities (Moscow, Chelyabinsk, Magnitogorsk)
- reported using Russian for more than 70% of the time

## Materials and Methods

Self-paced reading experiment (Linger & IbexFarm)

Experimental item—Context clause (firsthand or nonfirsthand information) + Target clause (verbs in past tenses grammatically marked for firsthand or nonfirsthand information)

Context		Target clause	
Situation type	Context clause		
Firsthand information (= seen)	It was hot, and I asked Samat to bring some water;	Samat poured some water into the glass and is looking for ice.	
Nonfirsthand information (=not-seen)	Sensory	I saw some light getting from under the door;	Father got up and is walking in the corridor.
	Reportative	I was told about the school chess tournament;	Ruslan won, and now everybody respects him.
	Inferential	In the morning I saw that no flowers are left;	The child has gathered all the flowers and wants to give them to me.

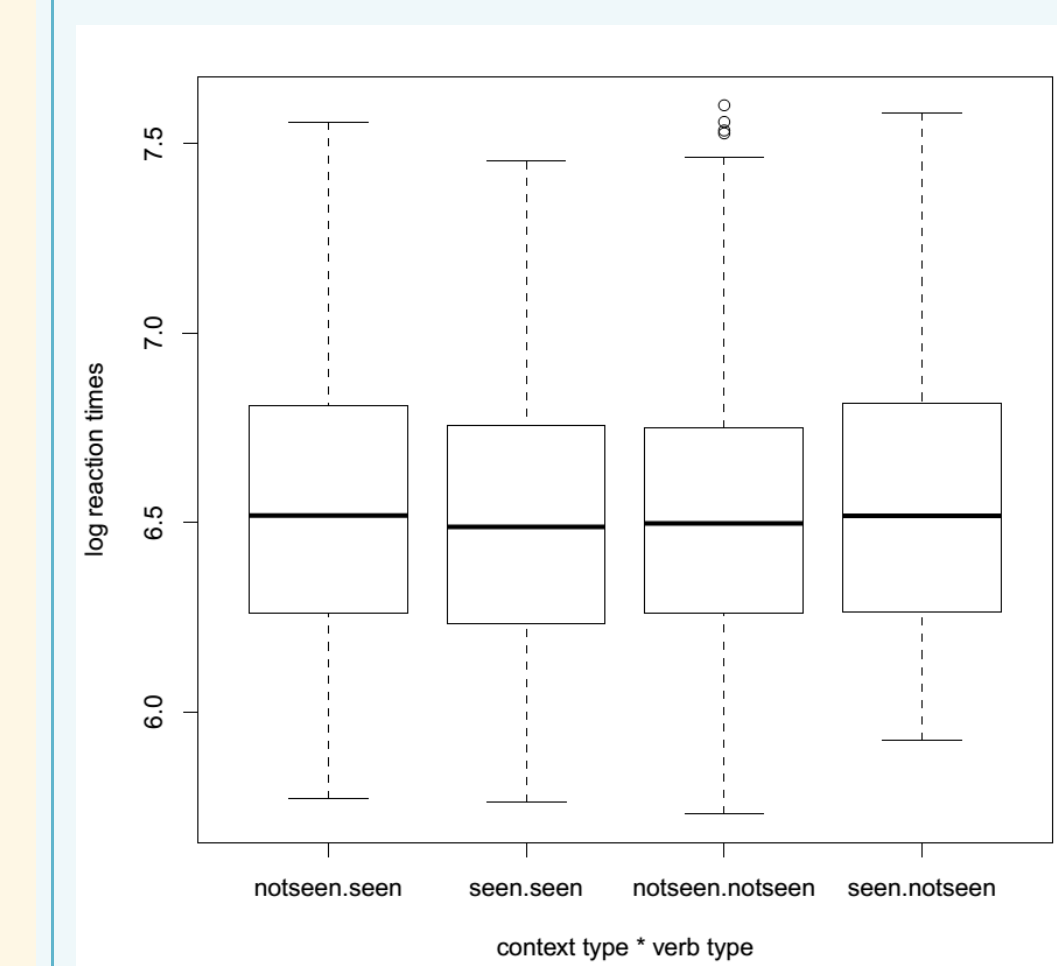
## Results

Crossed factors of context type and target type

Analysis on the log-transformed reaction times data using a generalized linear mixed-effects modelling in R (Bates et al., 2014)

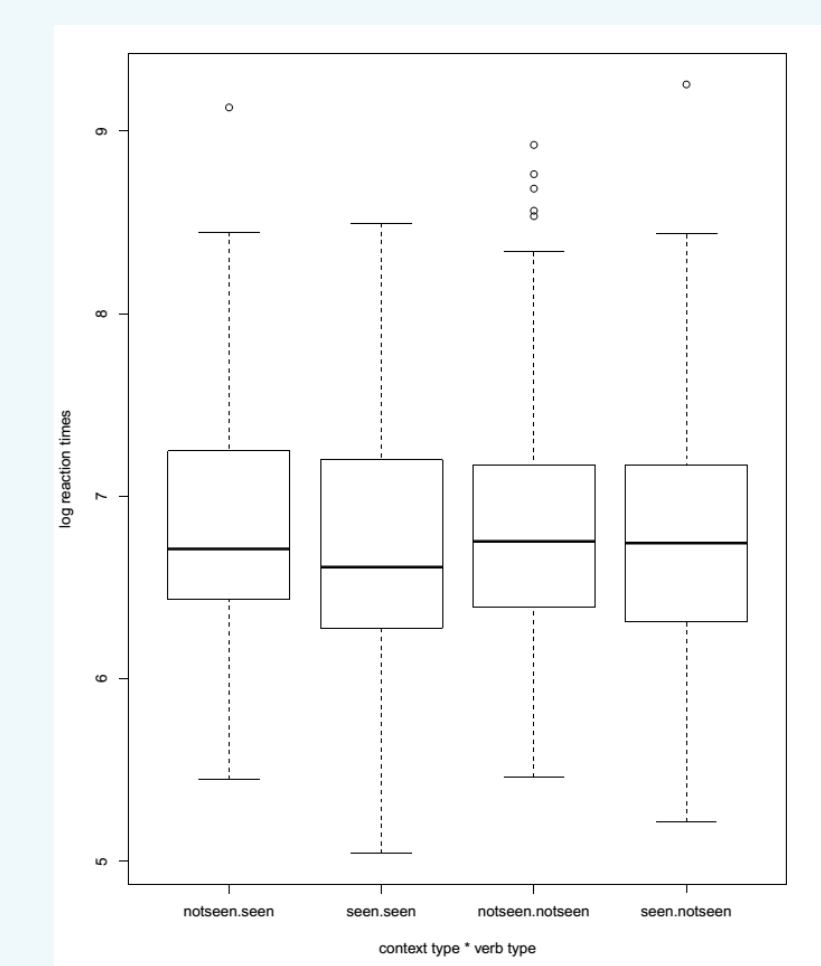
### Bashkir-dominant group

Increase of reaction time in mismatch conditions



### Russian-dominant group

No significant differences in reaction times between match and mismatch conditions



Our finding suggests that extensive use of the Russian language results in attrition of grammatical evidentiality in Bashkir-Russian bilinguals, which supports the theory that language exposure is a critical factor in language attrition

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