

speed with which they could answer questions. The use of reaction-time measures was also important to the additive factors logic that she used. The intent of the study was to encourage subjects to process these stories in the same manner they use outside the experimental setting—which we claim would be a rich elaborative manner. Therefore, subjects were not required to make verbatim memory judgments about the story; rather, they were required to judge the plausibility of the probe with respect to the story. One of the variables of the study was the ease with which subjects could make such plausibility judgments. Three kinds of targets were used. Although these targets were all clearly plausible, they varied in the ease with which they could be judged as plausible. There were verb-based statements that followed directly from the verb of one of the sentences. These are statements that are highly plausible but are seldom spontaneously generated by subjects. (One independent group of subjects generated elaborations to the story, and another rated the plausibility of those generated elaborations.) For instance, if the original text contained: "The heir told his father he wanted no part of his greasy food fortune," the subject might be asked to judge the plausibility of: "The heir communicated with his father."

A second class of statements, called high-plausible statements, were both high in judged plausibility and in frequency of generation. For instance, suppose the original text contained: "The heir decided to join Weight Watchers. Twenty-five pounds later, he realized his wife did love him after all." A high-plausible statement to judge might be: "The heir lost weight."

The third type of statement, the so-called medium-plausible statements, were lower in plausibility than either the high or verb-based statements. They were more frequently generated than the verb-based but less frequently than the high-plausible. For instance, if the subject had studied: "Now he worried that she [his wife] had been after his money all along," the to-be-judged statement was: "The heir had not worried about her motives before marriage."

The average lengths of the three types of probes were equal. For reasons unnecessary to unpack here (but see Reder, 1976), it was expected that both the medium-plausible and verb-based statements would take longer to judge than the high-plausible. Of principal interest was how this variable would interact with the other two variables of the study.

A second variable, called treatment, was a manipulation designed to vary the amount of elaboration relevant to making the judgment. At one extreme, the statement was actually *presented*. This should give the maximal opportunity for elaboration. At the other extreme, the *not-presented* condition, no effort was taken to induce relevant elaborations beyond presenting the story. In the treatment between these two extremes, a question was asked during the story that focused the subject on that part of the story that was relevant to answering the question. This was called the *primed* condition. For instance, the subject might read: "Anyway, real marital strife lay elsewhere. His wife had never revealed before marriage that she was an intellectual, that she read books." Then the