



FIGURE 13.4. Mean RT for plausibility and recognition judgments as a function of whether the probe had been stated in the story, plotted across levels of delay. (Adapted from Reder, 1982, Experiment 1, Fig. 3.)

ments) increased at the longer delay intervals. Also, accuracy declined greatly for not-stated plausibles in the recognition task, especially for the highly plausible statements. Figure 13.4 shows that not-stated items in the recognition task were erroneously accepted 60% of the time. The error rates were 50% for the moderately plausible and 70% for the highly plausible.

Given the theoretical interpretation of Reder (1982), that subjects were more inclined to adopt the plausibility strategy as memory traces faded (i.e., at longer delays), it seemed reasonable to predict that at longer delays the pattern found by Reder and Ross (1983) in the fan paradigm would also show a stronger influence of the plausibility strategy (i.e., more of a negative slope). Reder and Wible (1984) conducted an experiment similar to Reder and Ross, in which the major difference was that subjects were tested 48 hours after learning the material as well as being tested on the day of learning.

As expected, the effect of fan (the number of sentences sharing the same concepts) was strongest in those conditions where only one strategy could produce the correct response. Subjects who were asked to make recognition judgments showed the greatest interference from increased fan for the thematically related, not-studied items. This replicated earlier results. Inconsistent items and stated items could be correctly recognized using the plausibility strategy as well as the direct retrieval strategy, so those RT functions were flatter. On the other hand, those subjects who were asked to make thematic consistency judgments showed the most facilitation from increased fan for the related, not-studied items, since only the plausibility-like strategy would work.

The prediction that subjects would be more inclined to use the plausibility strategy at longer delays was supported by a number of results in Reder and Wible (1984). Figure 13.5 shows the mean facilitation (or speedup) from the first session to second session as a function of task and probe type. For all items, subjects are somewhat faster during the second session, possibly due to practice or due to greater fatigue during the first RT session after learning the materials. It is reasonable to consider the flat line for the stated probes as a baseline of no true facilitation or loss due to strategy shifts, because either strategy works equally well for these items. The most interesting changes in relative speed from the first to the second session are for the related, not-stated items. In the recognition task, where the plausibility strategy would produce the wrong response for these items, there is a relative hindrance due to the strategy shift, i.e., much less speedup than the baseline. In the consistency task, where only the plausibility strategy produces the correct response, there is the greatest speedup. Presumably this occurs because there are far fewer trials where subjects first use the inappropriate direct retrieval strategy prior to the plausibility strategy.

The speedup results just described are inconsistent with a simple, parallel race model for the same reasons that the speedup in Reder (1982) is inconsistent with it. Other aspects of the data also argue for a shift in strategy preference (from direct retrieval to plausibility) with increasing delay. The slopes of the fan