Extra Credit: Gesture Experiment

In this experiment we will examine the effects of gestures on retrieval of items from semantic memory. *The following readings are required* and are available through the library.


For your paper you must also find at least one reference of your own and use it plus the above three references.

**Partial Report**

This extra credit paper is a partial report on this experiment. The paper must contain a title page, abstract, introduction, methods section, and references.

**Experimental Task**

1. Find three participants willing to be in the experiment and run them one at a time. Do not use any classmates from your current 465 class.

2. Assign one person to the hands on table condition, another to the tapping on table condition, and another to the no restriction condition. Assign them randomly and run them through the experiment individually (no other participants present).

3. Read the following instructions to each participant:

   This is an experiment to find out how many unusual words the average college student knows. I will read you 50 definitions and your job is to provide the word for each definition. Just say the word out loud once you know it. If you do not know the word, just say so and I will move on to the next definition. Do you have any questions?

4. Answer general questions like “how long will this take?” but not questions about the hypothesis.
5. For the **hands on table condition**, also read the following instructions:

   While I am reading the definitions and you are trying to find the right word, it is important for you to keep your hands on the table and to NOT move them at all. Please keep your hands on the table all through the experiment. Place your hands on the table now and we will begin.

   Once the person is ready, begin with the first definition.

6. For the **tapping on table condition**, also read the following instructions:

   While I am reading the definitions and you are trying to find the right word, it is important for you to keep tapping the table with your hands like this (DEMONSTRATE TABLE TAPPING). Please keep tapping all through the experiment. Start tapping now and we will begin.

   Once the person begins tapping, begin with the first definition.

   Don’t give them more than 30 seconds before you say “let’s move on.” If they object (e.g., “wait, wait, I know this word”) ask them if they are having a Tip of the Tongue and if they are, mark it on the answer sheet (write “TOT” beside that trial) and give them another 30 seconds (if they ask for more time).

7. If at any time during the task a person stops tapping (in the tapping condition) or moves their hands (in the hands on table condition), stop reading definitions and instruct them to begin tapping again or to keep their hands still on the table.

8. As you read definitions, circle each one the participant gets right. If they say another word instead of the correct one, write that word down. If they say they are in a TOT (tip of the tongue) state, note that by the trial number. Tell them the correct word at the end of each trial.

9. At the end be sure to debrief each of your three participants. Tell them what the experiment is all about and what we expect to find. Offer to share the results once they are known.

Turn in the data sheet (or a copy) for each of your three participants with your paper.
Memory for Uncommon Words

This study is being conducted as part of a class exercise for PSYC 465, Experimental Psychology. The instructor is Dr. Arlo Clark-Foos.

- You must be 18 years of age or older to participate.
- All information gathered will be used only in aggregate form. We are not interested in individual responses but only in groups.
- Your responses are confidential and all records of your participation will be deleted once data are analyzed.
- If you do not wish to complete the study, you may stop at any point.
- Your participation should take approximately 30 minutes.

UM Dearborn wants to make sure you are treated in a fair and respectful manner. Contact Director of the Dearborn Research Office (irb-dearborn@umd.umich.edu or 313-593-5468) if you have any questions about how you were treated as a study participant. If you have any questions about the study, please contact Dr. Arlo Clark-Foos (313-583-6341).

If you consent to participate in this study and you understand the information on this form, please sign below.

Signature______________________________________ Date____________

Printed Name__________________________________________________