

Wittenberg et al., "The difference between "giving a rose" and "giving a kiss": A sustained anterior negativity to the light verb construction"

ERPs to Sentence-Final Words

In the 300-500 time window, there were no significant differences between the waveforms evoked by sentence-final words in the light and non-light sentences, or between the light and anomalous sentences (all $F_s < .85$, all $p_s > .45$, Figure 3). However, compared to the non-light constructions, waveforms to sentence-final words in the anomalous constructions were significantly more negative in some regions, as reflected by interactions between Construction and Region both in the mid-regions ($F(4,68)=5.96$, $p < .001$) and the peripheral regions ($F(3,51)=3.14$, $p = .05$) ANOVAs. Follow-ups localized these effects to parietal ($F(1,17)=6.66$, $p = .02$), occipital ($F(1,17)=14.88$, $p < .001$) and peripheral parietal ($F(1,17)=8.25$, $p = .01$) regions, with no effects in any other region ($F_s < 1.46$, $p_s > .24$).

In the later 500-900ms time window, there were once again no significant difference between light and non-light constructions ($F_s < .47$, $p_s > .58$). Again, the negativity evoked by sentence-final words in the anomalous constructions was larger than that evoked in the non-light constructions: there was an interaction between Construction and Region in the mid-regions ANOVA ($F(4,68)=5.26$, $p = .01$), with follow-ups showing significant effects in all regions ($F_s > 5.18$, $p_s < .04$) except for prefrontal, frontal, and frontal peripheral regions ($F_s < 1.46$, $p_s > .24$). The direct contrast between the anomalous and light verb constructions also revealed a Construction by Region interaction ($F(4,68)=4.43$, $p = .02$), but follow-ups showed a

significant effect only in the occipital region ($F(1,17)=7.58, p=.01$; all other regions $F_s < 2.09, p_s > .17$).

Sentence-Final Word

