Introduction

• When individuals make a recognition memory judgment, they must decide whether an item was previously studied (old) or not (new) by determining whether the familiarity strength of an item exceeds the decision criterion (strength of familiarity required to respond ‘old’).

Discriminability:
Decision criterion:
The ability to shift criterion

The tendency to criterion shift appears to be a stable cognitive trait, yet the nature or origin of this stability remains to be clarified.

Aim: So far, reliable predictive factors for criterion-shifting behavior have not been identified. This study aims to address whether internal or external directives influence participants criterion shifting behavior.

Hypothesis:
Internal vs. External Motivation/Directive: The money condition will show the largest criterion shifting behavior, followed by the “do better,” baseline, and finally, the memory directive will show the lowest shifting behavior.

Methods

Recognition Memory Task
Internal Directive Tasks – Session 1
1. Baseline Task:
• Participants were instructed to respond to old vs. new face images without any direct focus on strategy implied.

2. “Do Better” Task
• Participants were instructed to improve their scores and rewarded based on improvement.

3. Memory Task
• Participants were instructed to focus on their memory as a strategy for their performance and asked to write their commitment to focus on memory.

Recognition Memory Task
External Directive Tasks – Session 2
1. Memory Task
• Participants were instructed to focus on their memory as a strategy for their performance and asked to write their commitment to focus on memory.

2. “Write your commitment toward doing better on this task and your strategy toward doing better.”

3. Money Task
• Participants were instructed to focus on their memory as a strategy for their performance and asked to write their commitment to focus on memory.

4. Memory Task
• Participants were instructed to focus on their memory as a strategy for their performance and asked to write their commitment to focus on memory.

Results

Measure
Value
Positive PANAS
27.4 ± 7.8
Negative PANAS
15.3 ± 6.1
MTS
33.9 ± 4.6

References


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Future Directions

• Collected memory questionnaires prior to the first task and confidence ratings for each trial
• Eye-tracking or more in-depth understanding of strategies used by participants