

The Effect of Short Exposure to L1 on Naming in L2 among Bilinguals (Arabic - English)

Introduction

- For bilingual speakers, switching between languages is a common phenomenon, so it is important to understand to what extent these switches affect their linguistic performance.
- Previous findings indicate that bilingual performance in naming tasks is influenced both by factors that operate in the long run, that are related to accumulated linguistic experience, and processes that operate in the short run, that are related to the fact that the two languages of bilinguals are constantly active and therefore can affect one another.
- Recent findings (Kreiner & Degani, 2015) showed that both long-term experience and recent experience of brief exposure to the first-language (L1) increased bilinguals' lexical access difficulties in the second-language (L2).
- The question arises as to whether such interference can occur in a population that is highly proficient in language switching, such as Arabic speaking students.

The present study examined the effect of short-term exposure to L1 on L2 naming among Arabic-Hebrew bilinguals.

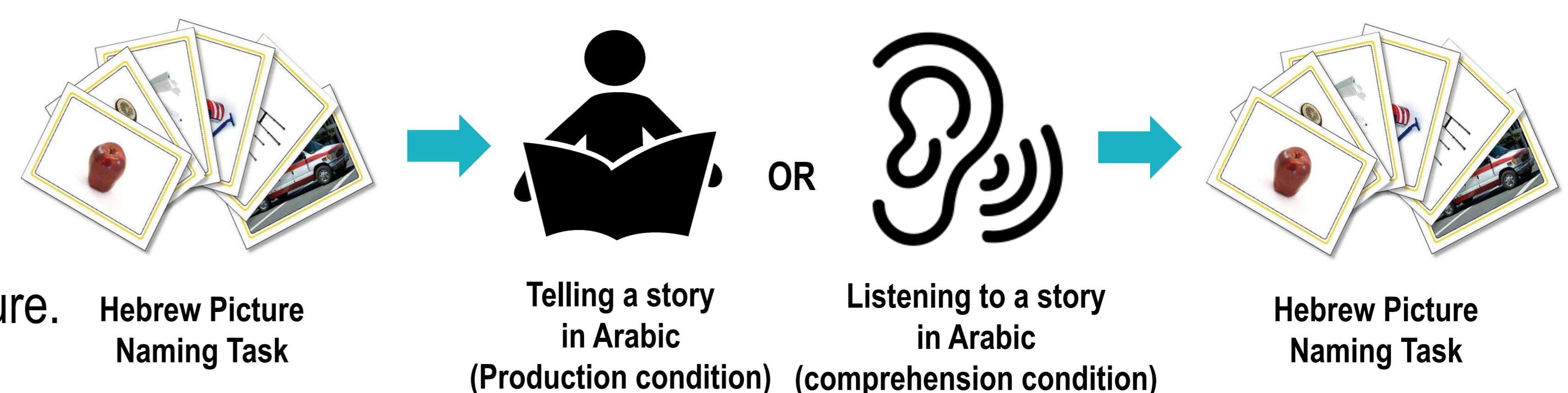
Method

Participants: 39 Arabic-Hebrew bilingual students, which indicate that they switch and mix languages frequently (M=8.3, SD=2.1).

Materials:

- 164 object pictures divided into 2 group for pre and post exposure.
- Two wordless picture books accompanied by story recordings.

Procedure:



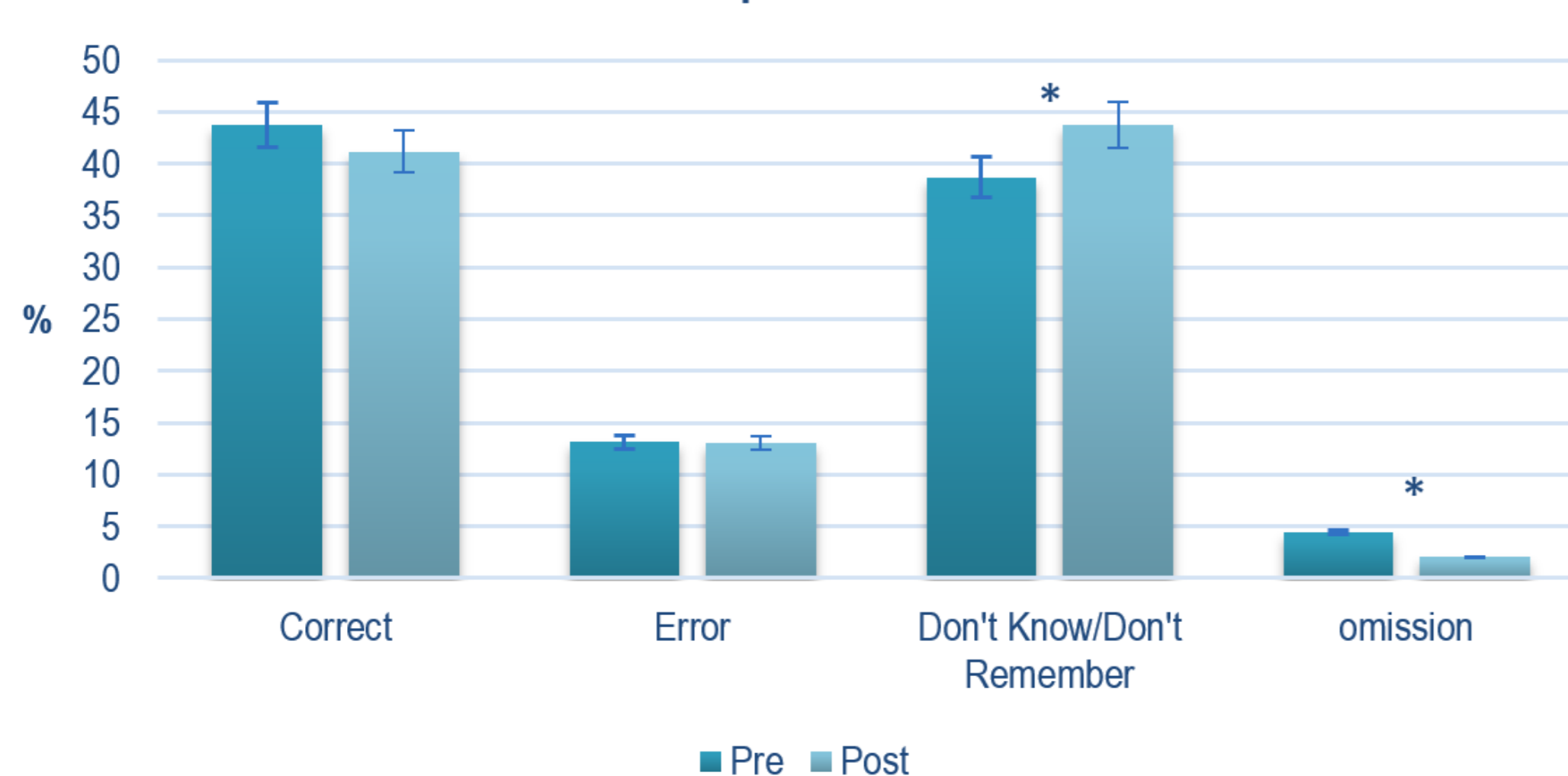
Results

- Increased don't know/don't remember responses and decreased omissions post compared to pre-exposure.

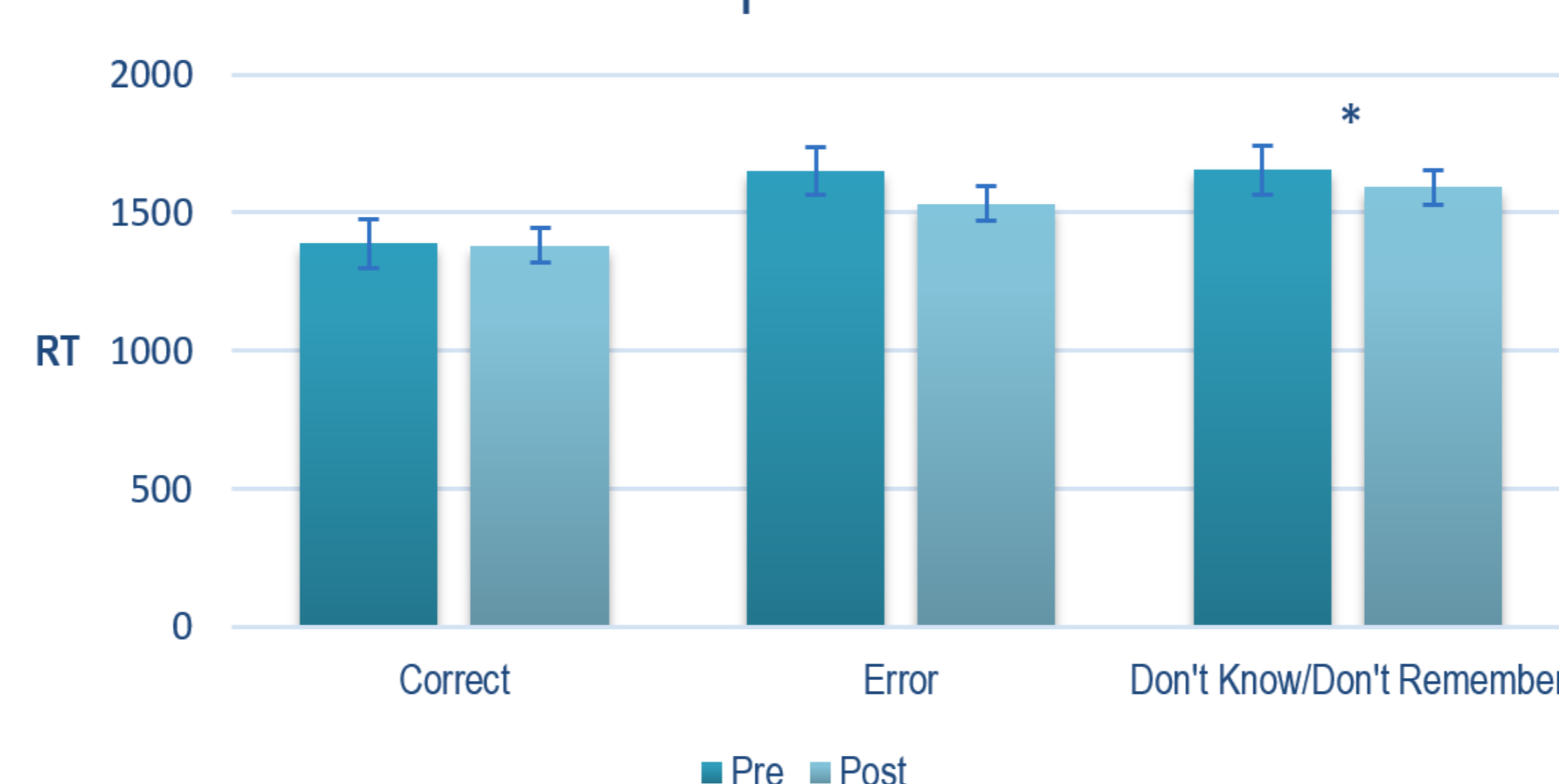
- Don't know/don't remember responses significantly slower post-exposure.
- No difference in accuracy and RT pre and post exposure.

- A greater increase in don't know/don't remember responses post-exposure for the comprehension condition compared to the production condition.

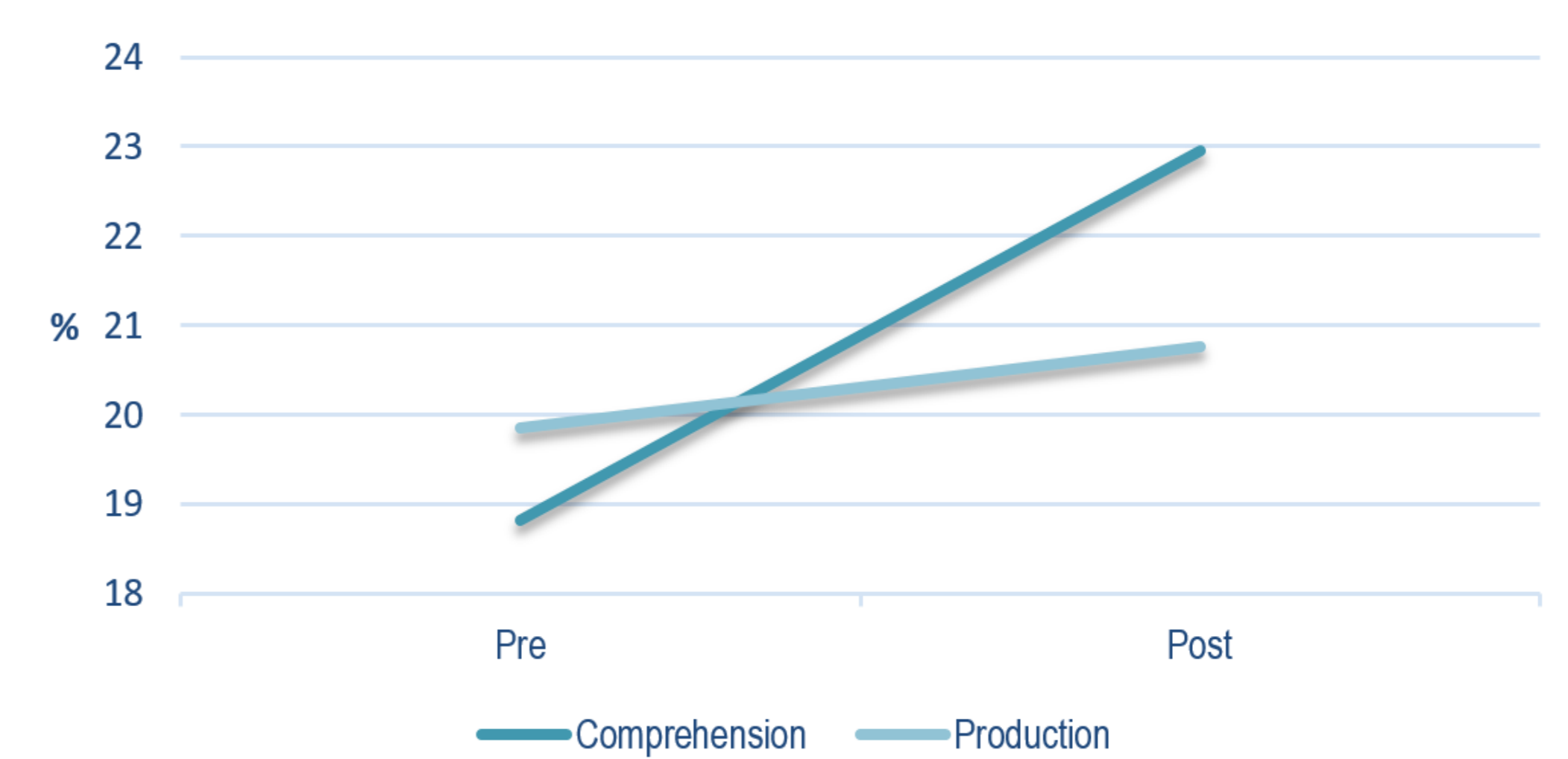
Response Rate by Type - Pre and Post Exposure



Mean RT by Response Type - Pre and Post Exposure



Don't Know/Don't Remember Responses by Exposure Condition - Pre and Post Exposure



Summary and Conclusion

- The study's findings suggest that among skilled language switchers, switching between languages enable better metacognitive control, that is reflected in a decrease in response omissions, accompanied by an increase in RT and rate of "don't know / don't remember" responses.
- These changes are more prominent post language comprehension than language production.
- The current study's results, in contrast to past findings, emphasize the importance of examining different groups of bilinguals that enable a better understanding of the characteristics that influence their performance and of the cognitive processes that enable the transition between languages.
- Continuing studies are required in order to continue to characterize these processes among other groups of speakers.