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 Fs<.85, all ps>.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 (Fs<1.46, ps>.24).

In the later 500-900ms time window, there were once again no significant difference between light and non-light constructions (Fs<.47, ps>.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 (Fs>5.18, ps<.04) except for prefrontal, frontal, and frontal peripheral regions (Fs<1.46, ps>.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 \( F_s<2.09, ps>.17) \).