Common ground in conversation: Evidence from item and context memory
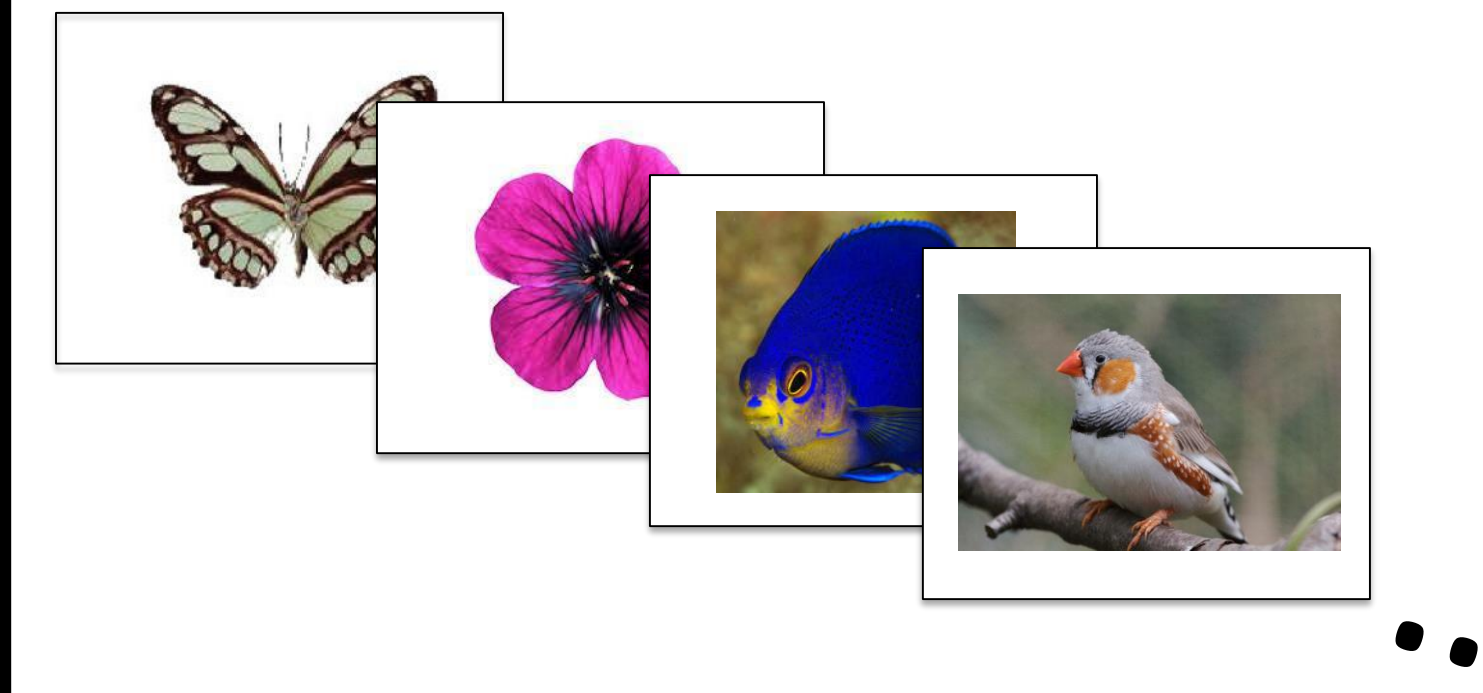## Geoffrey L. McKinley, Sarah Brown-Schmidt, and Aaron S. Benjamin

I ILLINOIS

Motivation

To examine the relationship between conversational role and memory for a conversation.

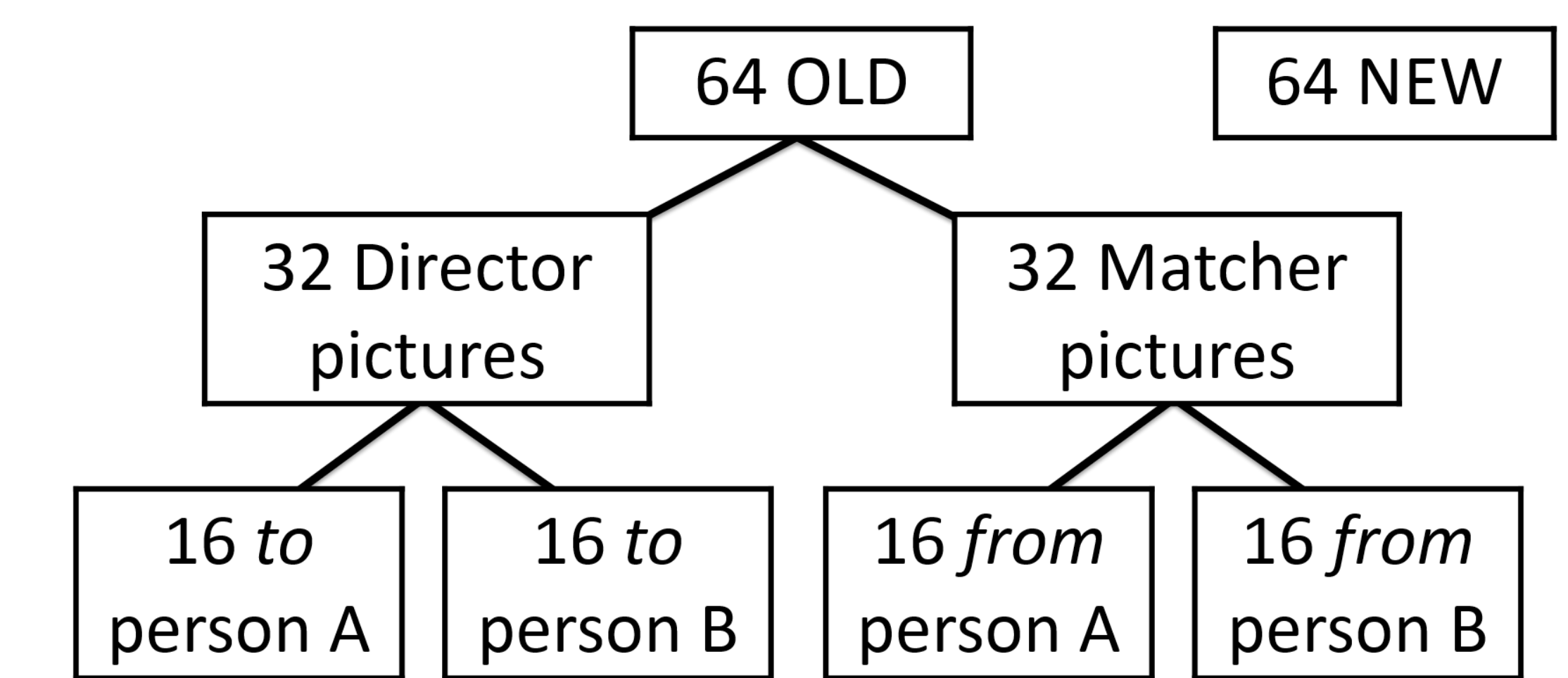To examine how memory for the conversation underlies the development of common ground over time.

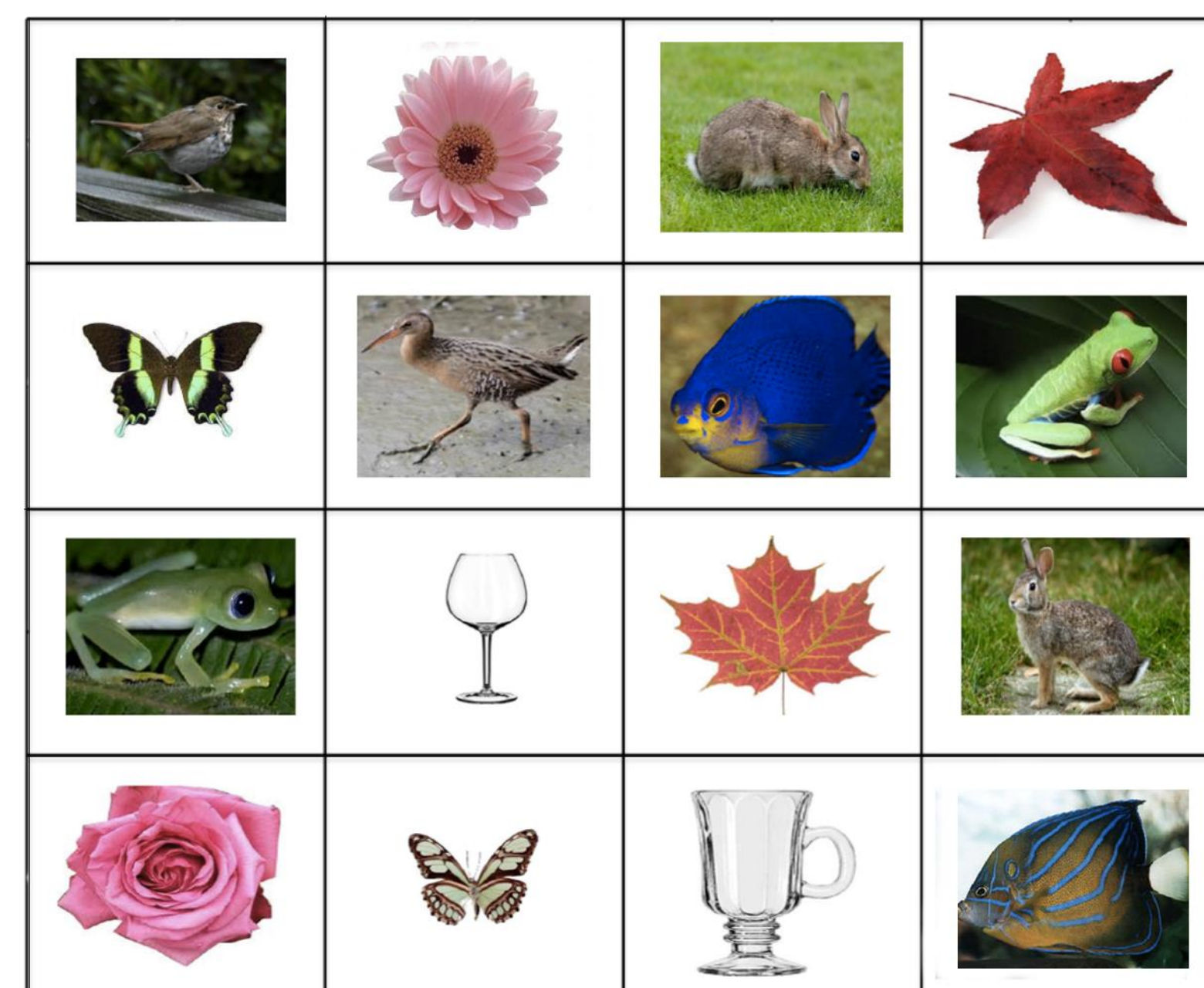## Recognition Test

Did you see this during any of the sessions?

↓

Who did you see this with [person A] or [person B]?

. . .

List composition

64 OLD   64 NEW

32 Director pictures   32 Matcher pictures

16 *to* person A | 16 *to* person B   16 *from* person A | 16 *from* person B
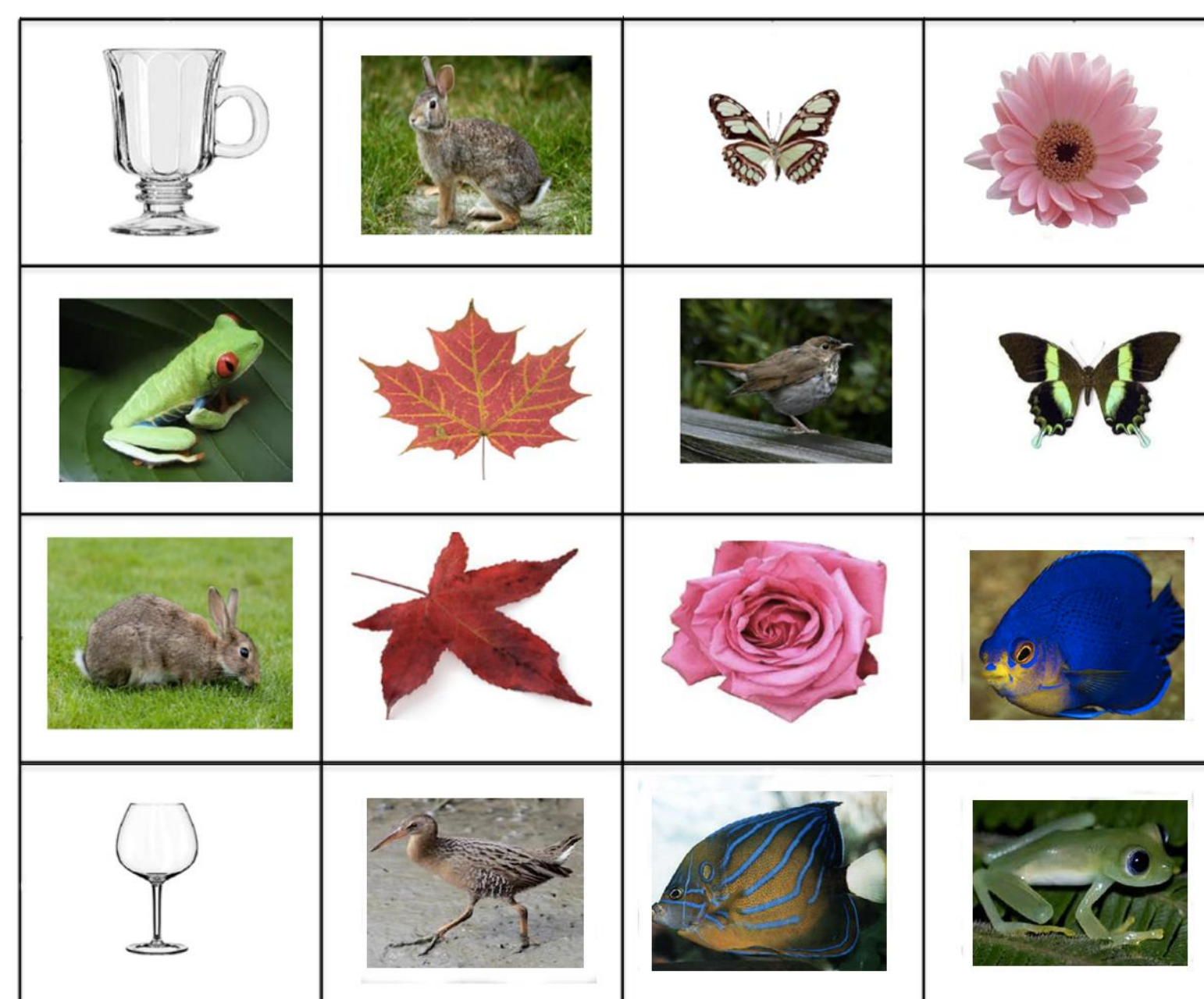
Task

Director display   Matcher display

For each session, a Director describes shared pictures to a Matcher.

The Matcher tries to arrange their own pictures to match the Director's display based on the Director's description.

This was done for 3 trials with the different arrangements of the same pictures.

Each person participated as a Director and as a Matcher, with two other people.

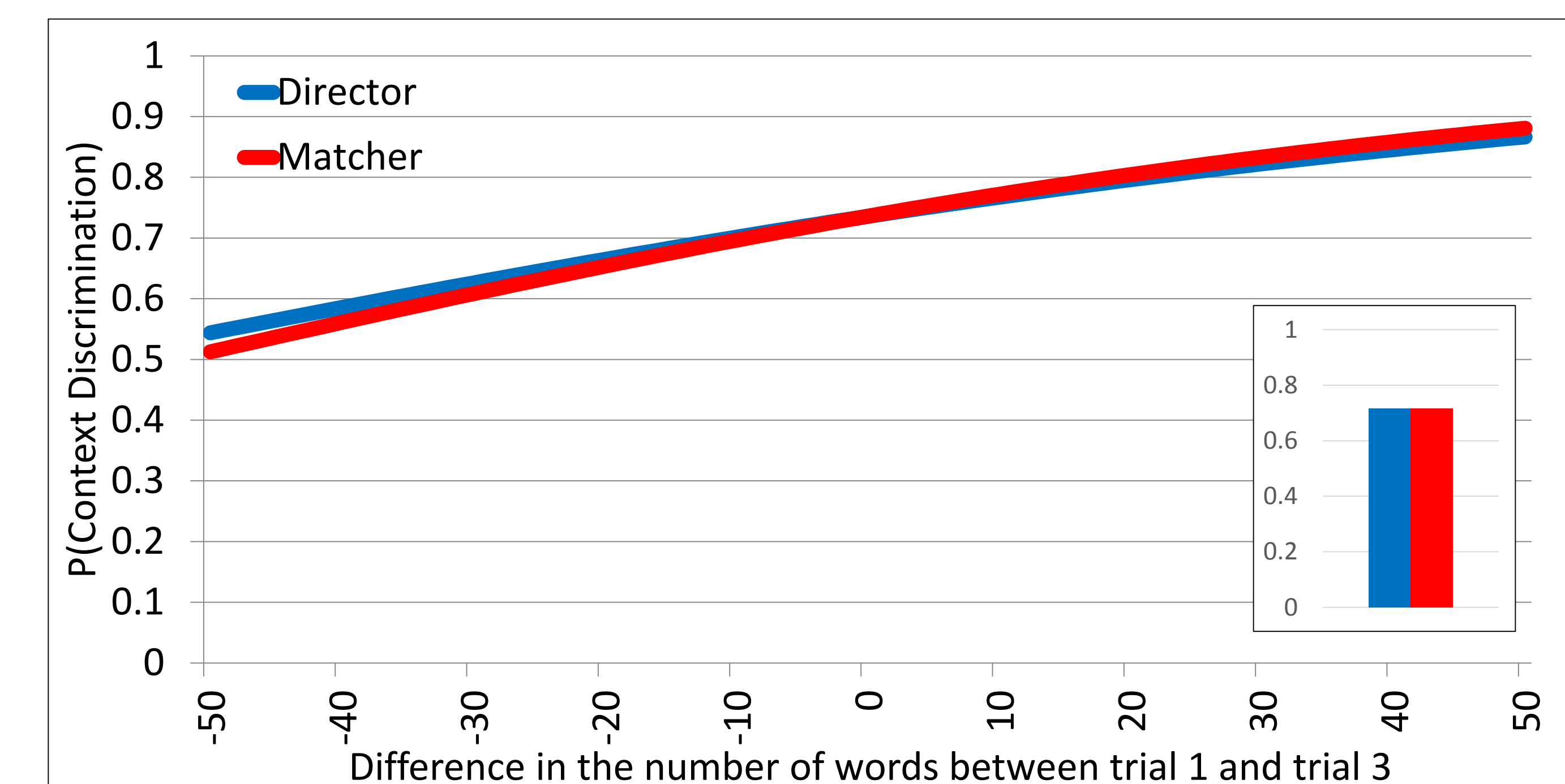## Item recognition as a function of common ground development
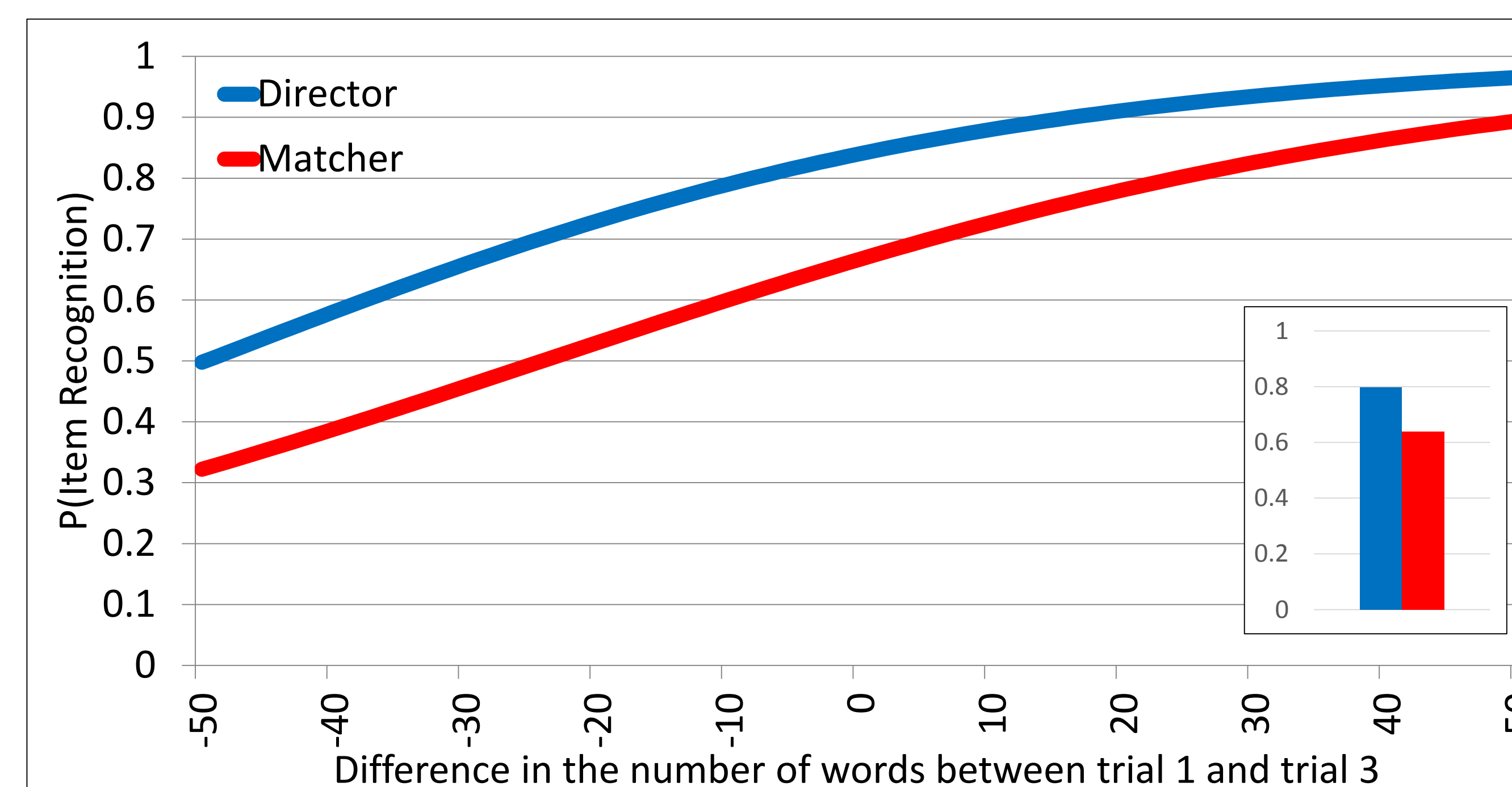
Directors performed better on the item recognition test ($b = 0.961$, SE = 0.15)

Common ground development predicted better item memory performance ($b = 0.029$, SE, 0.009)

This relationship did not differ between speakers and listeners ($b = 0.009$, SE = 0.019)

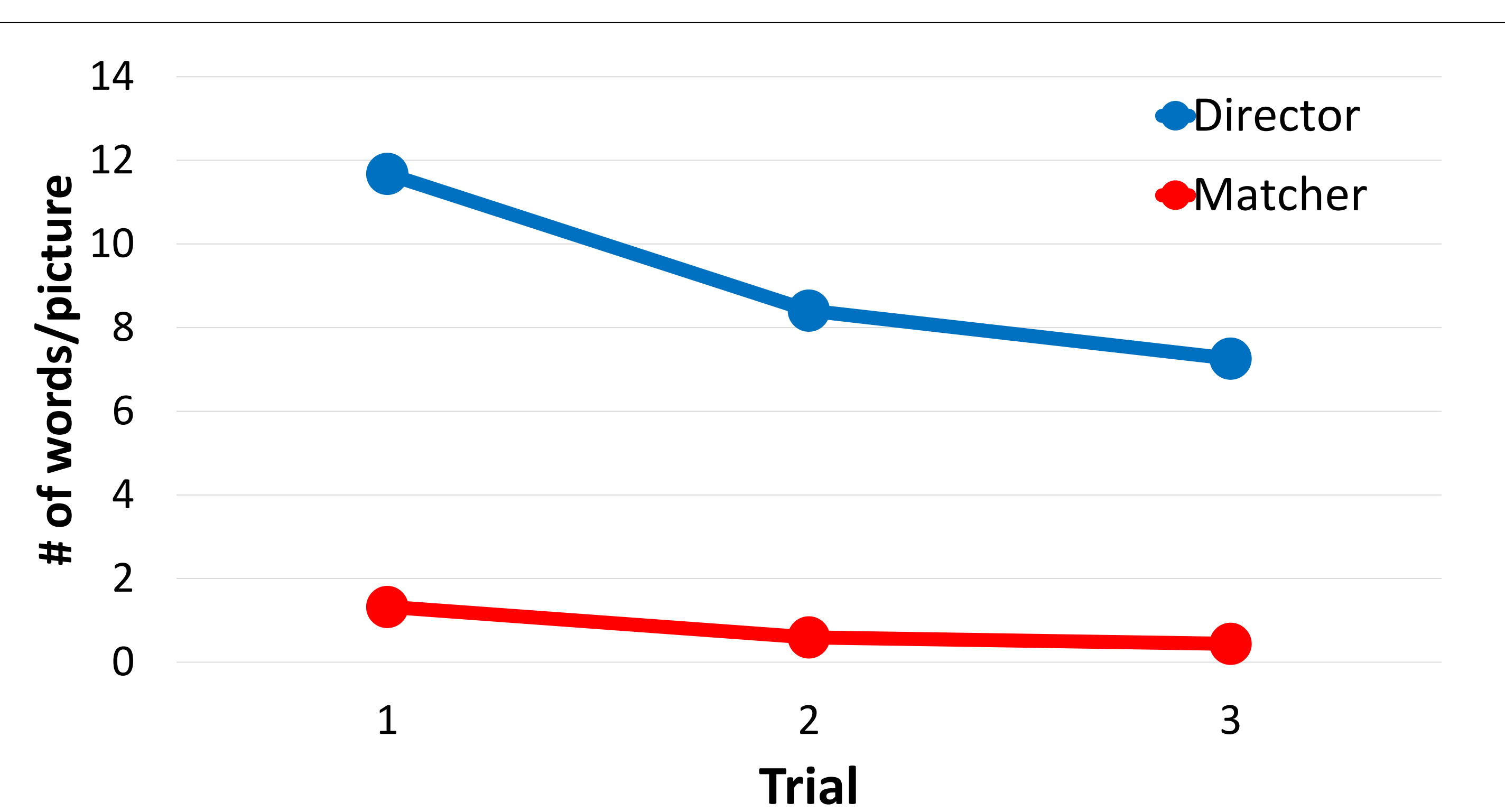## Context memory as a function of common ground development

Directors and Matchers did not differ in context discrimination ($b = -0.001$, SE = 0.106)

Common ground development predicted better context discrimination ($b = 0.018$, SE, 0.008)

This relationship did not differ between speakers and listeners ($b = -0.002$, SE = 0.015)

Common ground development

Utterance length decreased as a function of Trial ($b = -1.32$, SE = 0.11)

Directors used more words than Matchers ($b = 8.50$, SE = 0.44)

Utterance length decreased more for Directors than for Matchers ($b = -1.77$, SE = 0.165)

Conclusions

People remembered better what they said than what they heard.

This result is one reason why people have different memories for a conversation.

Common ground development was related to both item and context memory.