

## The Psychological Reality of Atomic Propositions

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The present study employed a recall task using a cloze item priming technique to investigate the structure of propositional representations of sentences in memory. Participants (N=83) were presented with 96 sentences half containing a pronominal anaphoric reference and the other half containing relative clause constructions in sets of four. They were required to answer two cloze items per sentence. It was observed that between-proposition priming was unidirectional for relative clause sentence construction, with forward priming effects being greater than backward priming effects. In pronominal anaphoric reference sentence constructions, one of the key issues was whether the position of the anaphor or referent would influence priming effects. When the referent was preceded by the anaphor stronger priming effect was evidenced by faster reaction times, regardless of proposition order. With respect to sentences containing relative clause constructions it appears that the position of the relative clause is what is driving the order effect. Both these results indicate that the way sentences are structured and not just the order in which propositions appear, influences representation in memory, memory retrieval and sentence resolution.