$\label{thm:continuous} \textbf{Table A1.} \textit{ Means and standard deviations of participant information in experiment } 1 \\$

| Age | AoA | Self-ratings | OQPT | | | |
|--------|--------|-----------------------------------|------|------|------|--------|
| | | Listening | _ | | | |
| 20.21 | 9.10 | 4.23 | 4.12 | 4.01 | 3.89 | 41.33 |
| (1.33) | (1.96) | (0.54) (0.42) (0.52) (0.49) | | | | (2.04) |

Note: AoA = age of L2 acquisition, OQPT = Oxford Quick Placement Test, standard deviations were in parentheses.

Table A2. Experimental material for Experiment 1

| | Cue (metaphor vehicle) target (semantic associate of L1 metaphorical meaning) | L2 metaphorical sentences | statements |
|---|---|---|---------------------------------|
| 1 | sheep-slow | He is a black sheep because what he did has damaged the collective honor. | He is an example of learning. |
| 2 | dragon-success | My boss is a dragon because he often punishes us severely for small things. | My boss often punishes us. |
| 3 | kitten-cute | Sally is a kitten because she always seduces men into doing bad things. | Sally has high moral standards. |
| 4 | rat-low | Lucy is a rat because she always speaks ill of others before the leader. | Lucy is ready to help others. |
| 5 | yellow-sex | You are yellow because you dare not talk to strangers. | You are very brave. |
| 6 | bear-incapable | He is a bear because he is rude and easily offended in his daily life. | He is good-tempered. |
| 7 | white-pure | Today is a white day for me, because both my exam and marriage proposal have been successful. | I am very happy today. |
| 8 | dog-faithful | Jack is a dirty dog because he often bullies | Jack is very kind. |

| | Cue (metaphor vehicle) target (semantic associate of L1 metaphorical meaning) | L2 metaphorical sentences | statements |
|----|--|--|--|
| | | others for no reason. | |
| 9 | bull-pride | My brother is a bull because he is rash and always makes everything messy. | My brother is careful. |
| 10 | cat-mild | The stepmother is a perfect cat because she often beats Mike severely in private. | The stepmother is very bad. |
| 11 | see the light- promising | I was totally confused, but later I began to see the light after your explanation. | The explanation is helpful. |
| 12 | pink-sweet | If you are in the pink, you are healthy and happy. | Pink is linked to wellbeing. |
| 13 | peach-student | My grandmother is a peach because many people like her. | My grandmother has no friends. |
| 14 | a big head- confused | My colleague has a big head because he always exaggerates his own value. | My colleague is modest. |
| 15 | goat-naughty | He is an old goat because he always touches girls' hands secretly. | He touched girls' hands. |
| 16 | goose-lucky | You are a goose because you can't learn such a simple question. | You learn quickly. |
| 17 | chicken-noisy | My sister is a chicken because she is afraid of the dark. | My sister is not afraid of the dark. |
| 18 | fish- rich | He is really a big fish because he is well-respected for his contributions in academy. | He is famous. |
| 19 | wolf-cruel | Bill is a wolf because he often tries to seduce the women he meets. | Bill has a good reputation. |
| 20 | red-joyful | Some countries are in the red because they are deeply in debt. | Countries in the red have troubles. |
| 21 | crow-unlucky | Crowing about your success only makes you look shallow and vain. | You had better not crow about success. |
| 22 | green-hopeful | He was a young fellow, very green, without any | He is experienced. |

| | Cue (metaphor vehicle) target (semantic associate of L1 metaphorical meaning) | L2 metaphorical sentences | statements |
|----|--|---|---------------------------------------|
| | | experience in the field. | |
| 23 | monkey-clever | My son is a monkey because he always misbehaves in a funny way. | My son is very naughty. |
| 24 | horse-talent | He is on his high horse, always acting like he is superior to other people. | He is arrogant. |
| 25 | pig-lazy | Bob is a pig because he is not satisfied no matter how much money his parents give him. | Bob is easily satisfied. |
| 26 | pulling my leg- trouble | I was fooled because you were pulling my leg all along, without a grain of truth. | You are being honest. |
| 27 | pine-strong | She sat in the house sadly day after day, pining for her lost lover. | She missed her lover. |
| 28 | water-unreliable | His arguments hold water because they have stood the test of time. | His arguments are reliable. |
| 29 | pig headed- foolish | I understand that to be pig headed is to be stubborn. | Pig headed is a positive description. |
| 30 | fox-cunning | Alice is a fox because she is very sexually attractive. | Alice is sexy. |

Table A3. Means and standard deviations (between parentheses) of accuracy percents and RTs (ms) in two cued-recall tests in experiment 1.

| | Initial recall | Final recall | | |
|-------------|----------------|--------------|-------------------|-----------------|
| | accuracy | accuracy | Initial recall RT | Final recall RT |
| | percent | percent | | |
| | | | | |
| Metaphor | 98 (13) | 98 (14) | 1378.54 (852.91) | 1166.45(668.46) |
| No metaphor | 97 (18) | 98 (12) | 1395.25 (816.29) | 1103.15(633.87) |

Table A4. Means and standard deviations of participant information in Experiment 2

| Age | AoA | Self-ratings | OQPT | | | |
|--------|--------|--------------|--------|--------|--------|--------|
| | | Listening | = | | | |
| 19.78 | 8.82 | 4.08 | 4.05 | 4.13 | 3.93 | 41.45 |
| (1.05) | (2.03) | (0.45) | (0.57) | (0.60) | (0.49) | (2.14) |

Note: AoA = age of L2 acquisition, OQPT = Oxford Quick Placement Test, standard deviations were in parentheses.

Table A5. Experimental material for Experiment 2

| condition | Target sentences | Explanatory sentences |
|-----------|-------------------------------------|--|
| literal | Apples are fruits. | Apples are juicy, delicious, sweet, a bit sour, and rich in nutrition. |
| | Murder is a crime. | Murder is an action of extreme harm to others and is bound to be punished by the law. |
| | Horses are animals. | Horses eat grass, and they have nerves, feeling, and can move. |
| | His teacher is an expert. | His teacher has made outstanding contributions in his specialization, and has strong communication skills. |
| | The weather is snowy. | The snow has been falling from the sky since morning and has covered the earth. |
| | The earth is a planet. | Earth revolves around the sun in space, and its environment is suitable for the human race. |
| | Aspirin is a medicine. | Aspirin can heal diseases and relieve the patient's physical discomfort. |
| | The guitar is a musical instrument. | The guitar is used to produce music and can we perform musical recreations with it. |
| | The student is a clever child. | The student responds quickly to problems and always gives right answers. |
| | Traveling is a hobby. | Some people will often go to travel, relax through travel, and make themselves happier. |
| | A knife is a weapon. | A knife can be used to attack others, and it can also be used to protect yourself in times of danger. |
| | America is a country. | The United States has its own national flag, systems, and territory. |
| | Cars are vehicles. | A car can bring us to the place where we want to go quickly and easily. |
| | Dancing is a profession. | People can dance to create spiritual wealth, and obtain reasonable pay for it. |
| | Football is a sport. | Football is a competitive activity, both physically and mentally demanding. |
| | His daughter is a | His daughter is good looking, has a good figure, and is |

| condition | Target sentences | Explanatory sentences |
|--------------------------|--------------------------------|---|
| | beautiful girl. | pursued by many boys. |
| | My mother goes to bed. | In the evening, my mother washes up and lies down on the bed, ready to start the rest. |
| | Physics is a science. | Physics studies the most basic laws of movement of matter and the basic structure of matter. |
| | The patient is an old man. | The patient is in his 70s, with slow movements, poor hearing, and poor eyesight. |
| | The tree is a big one. | This tree is many years old, tall and thick, and it needs a lot of people to hold it. |
| Culturally- congruent | Health is wealth. | Only a healthy person can do what they want to do in order to build more wealth. |
| metaphor | Love is a journey. | We will encounter different landscapes in love, sometimes smooth, sometimes not. |
| | His brain is a computer. | He can answer complex mathematical questions quickly and accurately. |
| | Youth is a treasure. | The young have healthy bodies, full of energy and unlimited possibilities. |
| | Angry words were daggers. | When people are angry, their language are filled with offensive and harmful words. |
| | He is a big mouth. | He always tells everyone the secrets of others, so do not tell him anything confidential. |
| | Mary had a heavy heart. | Her only son was missing in the war, and her husband died because of this unbearable blow. |
| | Cigarettes are time bombs. | Smoking affects the health of smokers and can lead to fatal diseases such as cancer. |
| | Some divorces are earthquakes. | Ever since they started talking about divorce, the peaceful life of two individuals has been disrupted. |
| | They are new blood. | They bring new views and new energy to the team, and can brighten our future. |
| | Jack is in low spirit. | Jack failed the exam and was severely criticized by the teacher. |

| condition | Target sentences | Explanatory sentences |
|----------------------------|------------------------------|--|
| | A vacation is a medicine. | Vacations can heal an injured person and can make tired ones more energetic. |
| | Life is grey for him. | Since the death of his son, he has felt despaired of life. |
| | Education is a doorway. | Some jobs require employees to meet a certain level of education. |
| | Her smile is a magnet. | Her smile deeply attracts my heart so that I don't want to move my eyes away from her. |
| | My marriage was an icebox. | My husband and I were not concerned with each other at all. |
| | Our efforts will bear fruit. | We just need to do our jobs and believe our efforts will not be in vain. |
| | Some colleges are gardens. | Some colleges have supportive teaching staff to bring the best out of their hopeful students. |
| | The nurse is an angel. | The nurse often gives the most selfless help and care whenever the patients need her. |
| | Their trust is glue. | The trust between them brings the two together closely, never divorced from each other. |
| Culturally- incongruent | Bill is a wolf. | Bill often tries to seduce the women he meets without any serious intention of long-term relationship. |
| metaphor | He is a bear. | He is rude and easily offended in his daily life. |
| | You are a goose. | You never learn even after I have taught you on the same problem for ten times. |
| | He is a pig of money. | Although his parents have given him all the money, he still feels inadequate and asks for more. |
| | My brother is a bull. | My brother is always so rash and acts in a tough way that makes everything messy. |
| | Today is a white day. | Not only did I get a promotion today, but my girlfriend agreed to my marriage proposal. |
| | He is a big fish. | he is well-respected for his contributions in the academy. |
| | Jack is a dirty dog. | Jack bullies his classmates for no reason, and he often steals |

| condition | Target sentences | Explanatory sentences |
|-----------|----------------------------|--|
| | | from them. |
| | He is a vegetable. | Since that brain damage, he can only breathe, without awareness and perception. |
| | He is an old goat. | He always likes to take advantage of girls and touches their hands while they're not paying attention. |
| | He is a black sheep. | But for the influence of his stealing, their class could still win a collective award this year. |
| | His arguments hold water. | As it turns out, his point of view can stand the test of time. |
| | My grandma is in the pink. | My grandma eats well, sleeps soundly, feels happy and is in good health every day. |
| | Lucy is a rat. | Not only did Lucy take my work for her own, but she also spoke ill of me before leaders. |
| | My boss is a dragon. | He often gets angry at the slightest thing and punishes us severely. |
| | My sister is a chicken. | My sister is not only afraid of the dark, but also dares not to climb trees. |
| | The stepmother is a cat. | The stepmother pretends to be nice to Mike in front of others, but she often beats him in private. |
| | The country is in the red. | The country borrowed too much money from other countries but can't produce enough to pay back. |
| | You are often yellow. | You are so shy that you dare not talk to strangers. |
| | My son is a monkey. | My son is so naughty, he always misbehaves in a funny way to attract attention. |

Table A6. Means and standard deviations of the time for first comprehension of target sentences, total time for second comprehension, and scores for first interpretation and reinterpretation of target sentences in experiment 2.

| T | Inhibitory | Time for comprehension | | | Scores for interpretation | | |
|--------------|------------------|--------------------------------------|--|----------------------|--------------------------------------|--|------------------|
| Test time | control level | Culturally- congruent metaphor | Culturally- incongruent metaphor | Literal sentence | Culturally- congruent metaphor | Culturally- incongruent metaphor | Literal sentence |
| First | High IC | 1885.50 (891.62) | 1807.62 (800.36) | 1581.85 (683.09) | 1.09 (0.70) | 1.12 (0.69) | 1.11 (0.67) |
| time | Low IC | 2586.15 (1141.86) | 2323.42 (1015.32) | 2041.81 (926.85) | 0.97 (0.71) | 0.94 (0.72) | 0.95 (0.72) |
| Second | High IC | 3788.04 (2336.22) | 4425.17 (2546.64) | 3538.01 (2394.18) | 1.59 (0.52) | 1.58 (0.51) | 1.58 (0.48) |
| time | Low IC | 5203.46 (2674.83) | 5914.09 (2489.06) | 4132.76 (2518.92) | 1.60 (0.49) | 1.59 (0.54) | 1.57 (0.50) |

Note: Results were grouped by conditions and individual difference in inhibitory control (split by median). Standard deviations were in parentheses. IC=inhibitory control.

Table A7. Model results for first comprehension time of target sentences

| Predictors | Estimates | CI | p |
|----------------------|-----------|--------------|--------|
| (Intercept) | 3.49 | 3.29 – 3.69 | < 0.00 |
| Congruent Metaphor | 0.05 | 0.01 - 0.09 | 0.012 |
| Incongruent Metaphor | 0.02 | -0.02 - 0.07 | 0.347 |
| Inhibitory Control | 0.00 | 0.00 - 0.00 | 0.007 |
| Difficulty | 0.08 | 0.01 - 0.16 | 0.036 |
| Familiarity | -0.12 | -0.190.05 | 0.001 |

| Congruent Metaphor * Inhibitory Control | 0.00 | 0.00-0.00 | 0.041 |
|---|-------|-----------|-------|
| Incongruent Metaphor * Inhibitory Control | -0.00 | 0.00-0.00 | 0.430 |

Note: Concerned fixed effect variables are bolded if significant.

Table A8. Model results for scores of first interpretation

| Predictors | Estimates | Standard deviations | t | p |
|---|-----------|---------------------|-------|-----|
| (Intercept) | 387.47 | 622.15 | 0.62 | .54 |
| Congruent Metaphor | 42.62 | 119.99 | 0.36 | .72 |
| Incongruent Metaphor | 212.16 | 152.85 | 1.39 | .17 |
| Inhibitory Control | 0.54 | 0.32 | 1.46 | .14 |
| Difficulty | -247.79 | 247.68 | -1.00 | .32 |
| Familiarity | 307.10 | 229.79 | 1.34 | .19 |
| Congruent Metaphor * Inhibitory Control | -0.60 | 0.36 | -1.65 | .10 |
| Incongruent Metaphor * Inhibitory Control | -0.70 | 0.37 | -1.91 | .06 |

Note: Concerned fixed effect variables are bolded if significant.

Table A9. Model results for the total time for second comprehension

| Predictors | Estimates | CI | p |
|---|-----------|--------------|--------|
| (Intercept) | 3.75 | 3.70 - 3.80 | <0.001 |
| Congruent Metaphor | 0.05 | 0.02 - 0.07 | <0.001 |
| Incongruent Metaphor | 0.04 | 0.01 - 0.07 | 0.004 |
| Inhibitory Control | 0.00 | -0.00 - 0.00 | 0.316 |
| Z_difficulty | -0.01 | -0.03 - 0.01 | 0.098 |
| Z_familiarity | -0.00 | -0.02 - 0.01 | 0.743 |
| Z_explanatory | 0.04 | 0.03 - 0.05 | <0.001 |
| Congruent Metaphor * Inhibitory Control | 0.00 | 0.00 - 0.00 | 0.044 |
| Incongruent Metaphor * Inhibitory Control | 0.00 | -0.00 - 0.00 | 0.067 |

Notes: Z_difficulty = standardized difficulty of target sentences; Z_familiarity = standardized

familiarity of target sentences; Z_explanatory = standardized time for explanatory sentence comprehension. Concerned fixed effect variables are bolded if significant.

Table A10. Model results for scores of reinterpretation

| Predictors | Estimates | Standard deviations | t | p |
|---|-----------|---------------------|-------|-----|
| (Intercept) | 196.44 | 645.78 | 0.30 | .76 |
| Congruent Metaphor | 137.70 | 126.82 | 1.09 | .28 |
| Incongruent Metaphor | 329.25 | 160.29 | 2.05 | .04 |
| Inhibitory Control | 0.31 | 0.50 | 0.62 | .54 |
| Difficulty | -473.36 | 256.96 | -1.84 | .07 |
| Familiarity | 619.37 | 237.82 | 2.60 | .01 |
| Congruent Metaphor * Inhibitory Control | -0.54 | 0.51 | -1.06 | .29 |
| Incongruent Metaphor * Inhibitory Control | -0.26 | 0.51 | -0.51 | .61 |

Note: Concerned fixed effect variables are bolded if significant.

Table A11. Means and standard deviations of participant information in experiment 3

| Age | AoA | Self-ratings of L2 proficiency | | | | OQPT |
|--------|--------|--------------------------------|----------|---------|---------|--------|
| | | Listening | Speaking | Reading | Writing | _ |
| 22.19 | 9.12 | 4.02 | 4.01 | 4.05 | 3.83 | 40.28 |
| (1.96) | (2.36) | (0.81) | (0.61) | (0.62) | (0.62) | (2.37) |

Note: AoA = age of L2 acquisition, OQPT = Oxford Quick Placement Test, standard deviations were in parentheses.

Table A12. Experimental material for experiment 3

| Condition | Stimulus sentences | Questions |
|--------------------------|--|--|
| Culturally- congruent | Health is wealth because you can't do anything without being healthy. | Health is precious. |
| metaphor | Love is a journey because it is sometimes smooth, but sometimes not. | There are also difficulties in love. |
| | His brain is a computer because he can answer complex questions quickly. | He answers questions slowly. |
| | Youth is treasure because young people are full of energy and possibilities. | Young people are full of energy. |
| | He is a big mouth because he likes to talk about other people's secrets. | He likes to talk about other people's secrets. |
| | Her smile is a magnet because it really attracts my eyes. | Her smile is disgusting. |
| | A lie is a dagger because a lie can hurt others. | A lie doesn't hurt anyone. |
| | My marriage is an icebox because my husband and I are indifferent to each other. | My husband and I care about each other. |
| | Vacation is a medicine because it can turn a tired person to one with strength. | Vacation is helpful to people. |
| | Some colleges are gardens because they cultivate hopeful young students. | Colleges are dull and boring. |
| | Education is a doorway because employees must master basic skills. | Work has nothing to do with education. |
| | They are new blood because they bring new ideas and energy to the team. | They are holding their team back. |
| | Smoking is a time bomb because it can cause serious illnesses such as cancer. | Smoking is helpful. |
| | Their divorce was an earthquake because their lives were in ruins after divorce. | Both of them were greatly affected by the divorce. |
| | Their trust is glue because it brings the two together closely. | They don't trust each other. |
| literal | Apples are fruits because they are juicy, delicious and nutritious. | Apples are not nutritious. |

| Condition | Stimulus sentences | Questions |
|--|--|-------------------------------------|
| | Murder is a crime because it violates the law. | Murder needs to be punished. |
| | His teacher is an expert because he is very skilled in his field. | His teacher is not professional. |
| | Dancing is a profession because people can dance to get paid. | Dancing doesn't make money. |
| | His daughter is a beauty because she has a good face and a good figure. | His daughter is attractive. |
| | The patient is an old man because he is over seventy. | The patient is a young man. |
| | Cars are vehicles because they can take us wherever we want to go. | The car can run. |
| | Physics is a discipline because it studies the law of matter and motion. | Physics is a science. |
| | America is a country because it has its own land and ocean. | The United States has its own land. |
| | The earth is a planet because it revolves around the sun in space. | The earth revolves around the sun. |
| | Aspirin is a medicine because it can cure diseases. | Aspirin is a vehicle. |
| | The guitar is an instrument because it can be used to play music. | The guitar is food. |
| | The student is a clever boy because he can solve difficult problems quickly. | The student responds quickly. |
| | Traveling is a hobby because it is an activity many people enjoy. | Traveling makes people happy. |
| | A knife is a weapon because it can be used to attack others. | A knife cannot hurt a man. |
| Culturally- incongruent metaphor | You are a goose because you can't learn such a simple question. | You learn quickly. |
| | He is a black sheep because what he did has damaged the collective honor. | He is an example of learning. |
| | My sister is a chicken because she is afraid of the | My sister is not afraid of the |

| Condition | Stimulus sentences | Questions |
|-----------|---|---------------------------------------|
| | dark. | dark. |
| | My boss is a dragon because he often punishes us severely for small things. | My boss often punishes us. |
| | The stepmother is a cat because she often beats Mike in private. | The stepmother is very bad. |
| | He is an old goat because he always touches girls' hands secretly. | He touches girls' hands. |
| | Lucy is a rat because she always speaks ill of others before the leader. | Lucy is ready to help others. |
| | Jack is a dirty dog because he often bullies others for no reason. | Jack is very kind. |
| | My brother is a bull because he is rash and always makes everything messy. | My brother is careful. |
| | He is a bear because he is rude and easily offended in his daily life. | He is good-tempered. |
| | Bob is a pig because he is never satisfied no matter how much you give him. | Bob is easily satisfied. |
| | You are yellow because you dare not talk to strangers. | You are very brave. |
| | He is a big fish because he is well-respected for his contributions in the academy. | He is famous. |
| | My son is a monkey because he always misbehaves in a funny way. | My son is very naughty. |
| | Bill is a wolf because he often tries to seduce the women he meets. | Bill has a good reputation. |
| filler | She is a highly skilled worker who lives in my school. | She lives in my school. |
| | After the therapy, Ann is much happier than she was. | Ann is happy after the therapy. |
| | All citizens celebrated the New Year cheerfully with a dance party. | Some residents were not at the party. |
| | Bill is always faster than Mike especially in the | Bill is good at high jump. |

| Condition | Stimulus sentences | Questions |
|-----------|--|--|
| | long distance running. | |
| | Compared to the French restaurant, the Greek one is much closer to our school. | The Greek restaurant is more delicious. |
| | During the war, they received the support from the people. | People support them during the war. |
| | Fred is the person who raises his hand in that corner. | Fred is in the corner. |
| | He won the first place in the competition on Wednesday. | He won the game. |
| | I hope you would give me some relevant explanations about it. | You don't have to explain. |
| | I just have a few classes this semester, so I have plenty of free time. | I am busy this semester. |
| | I noticed that Sam had a team of helpers. | Sam had a team. |
| | I think the older ones need more of our attention than the young ones. | We should give more attention to the older ones. |
| | It is raining heavily outside; you should stay and wait. | It's raining now. |
| | Jack is playing a ball with his puppy in the yard. | Jack is studying with his puppy. |
| | Lots of students respect this professor for his wisdom and humor. | Students respect their professor. |
| | Mike has some interests, like swimming, hiking and reading. | Mike likes running. |
| | My grandfather liked fishing in the park last year. | My grandpa liked to swim. |
| | My grandmother was woken up by the earthquake. | My grandma was awakened. |
| | Only a few countries pay attention to protecting our environment. | We should protect our environment. |
| | Our company building will be completed successfully in the third quarter. | The building of our company will be built. |

| Condition | Stimulus sentences | Questions |
|-----------|---|--|
| | Our country is getting stronger and stronger since the reform and opening up. | Our country is strong. |
| | Our school is three times larger than my grandma's garden. | Our school is smaller than my garden. |
| | Please speak louder, it's noisy and I can't hear you clearly. | I can't hear you clearly. |
| | Our professor recommended some classical films to us to learn history. | We can learn history through some films. |
| | Several bikes outside these classrooms were stolen last night. | Bikes were broken. |
| | She spent a great deal of money on English learning books. | She spent her money on dancing. |
| | Someone on the subway was selling fake watches all the time. | Someone sold fake watches. |
| | Studying abroad can give you a wider vision than what you have now. | Studying abroad is good to you. |
| | That day, they behaved very badly towards their guests. | They made their guests feel comfortable. |
| | That lady can speak four languages, English, Spanish, French and Chinese. | The woman can speak only one language. |
| | The book may contain useful information which is beneficial for your health. | This book is useless. |
| | The company sold four houses during last year's financial crisis. | Four houses were sold last year. |
| | The employees are willing to work in that nice environment. | The employees like that environment. |
| | The first step is to familiarize yourself with the key concepts in this area. | You should learn some key concepts. |
| | The girl's life was saved because the doctor acted so perfectly. | The girl is dead. |
| | The little boy is helping his mother cleaning the house. | The little boy never helps his mother. |

| Condition | Stimulus sentences | Questions |
|-----------|---|--|
| | The magazines will become thicker by adding pages. | The magazine increased its length. |
| | The postman has used up all his energy in one hour. | The postman is full of energy. |
| | The ticket entitles you to a free meal in this restaurant. | You can have a free meal with this ticket. |
| | The tiger has been caught after it had eaten two persons. | The tiger ate two men. |
| | The wall is covered with pictures which were created by children. | The wall is covered by pictures. |
| | The wounded bird is falling down from the top of the tree. | The wounded bird is flying away. |
| | Their teacher supported them to send the letter to the president. | They had a letter for the president. |
| | These flowers smell good, which makes me feel better. | These flowers make me better. |
| | This is the most expensive watch that I have ever owned. | The watch is cheap for me. |

Table A13. Means and standard deviations of eye movement measures in experiment 3

| Regions of interest | Eye movement measures | Inhibitory control level | Culturally- congruent metaphor | Culturally- incongruent metaphor | Literal sentence |
|---------------------|-----------------------------|--------------------------------|--------------------------------------|--|--------------------|
| | Gaze | High IC | 525.67 (303.33) | 512.88 (286.45) | 500.03 (280.11) |
| Vehicle region | duration | Low IC | 552.72 (304.32) | 558.38 (313.73) | 506.32 (252.63) |
| | Regression path | High IC | 693.57 (388.02) | 724.66 (364.86) | 601.53 (444.55) |
| | duration | Low IC | 704.98 (401.15) | 844.94 (507.78) | 626.70 (350.77) |

| | Total reading time | High IC | 1610.82 (870.09) | 1642.88 (830.63) | 1301.77 (771.21) |
|--------------------|--------------------------|---------|----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|
| | | Low IC | 1848.81 (1006.33) | 1945.02 (1013.72) | 1464.32 (822.68) |
| Explanation region | Gaze duration | High IC | 1715.50 (1040.87) | 2073.63 (1059.54) | 1463.31 (783.71) |
| | | Low IC | 1905.39 (1080.75) | 2364.86 (1162.22) | 1560.69 (771.45) |
| | Regression path duration | High IC | 4295.71 (2640.08) | 4563.04 (1911.50) | 3572.88 (1829.62) |
| | | Low IC | 4866.95 (2630.35) | 5516.54 (2287.72) | 4074.49 (1921.32) |
| | Total reading time | High IC | 2402.00 (1605.70) | 2824.33 (1374.95) | 1964.68 (1098.95) |
| | | Low IC | 2767.67 (1686.00) | 3405.98 (1551.71) | 2198.39 (1116.37) |

Note: Results were grouped by conditions and individual difference in inhibitory control (split by median). Standard deviations were in parentheses. IC=inhibitory control.

Table A14. Model results for regression path duration on the vehicle region

| Predictors | Estimates | CI | p |
|---|-----------|--------------|--------|
| (Intercept) | 2.95 | 2.59 - 3.31 | <0.001 |
| Congruent Metaphor | 0.04 | -0.02 - 0.10 | 0.155 |
| Incongruent Metaphor | 0.07 | -0.01 - 0.14 | 0.078 |
| Inhibitory Control | 0.00 | -0.00 - 0.00 | 0.274 |
| Difficulty | 0.01 | -0.10 - 0.12 | 0.817 |
| Familiarity | -0.07 | -0.15 - 0.02 | 0.114 |
| Congruent Metaphor * Inhibitory Control | -0.00 | -0.00 - 0.00 | 0.642 |
| Incongruent Metaphor * Inhibitory Control | 0.00 | -0.00 - 0.00 | 0.073 |

Note: Concerned fixed effect variables are bolded if significant.

Table A15. Model results for total reading time on the vehicle region

| Predictors | Estimates | CI | p |
|---|-----------|--------------|--------|
| (Intercept) | 3.83 | 3.34 - 4.31 | <0.001 |
| Congruent Metaphor | 0.03 | -0.06 - 0.11 | 0.512 |
| Incongruent Metaphor | -0.01 | -0.11 - 0.09 | 0.855 |
| Inhibitory Control | 0.00 | -0.00 - 0.00 | 0.211 |
| Difficulty | -0.04 | -0.19 - 0.11 | 0.604 |
| Familiarity | -0.09 | -0.20 - 0.02 | 0.108 |
| Congruent Metaphor * Inhibitory Control | -0.00 | -0.00 - 0.00 | 0.962 |
| Incongruent Metaphor * Inhibitory Control | 0.00 | -0.00 - 0.00 | 0.058 |

Note: Concerned fixed effect variables are bolded if significant.

Table A16. Model results for regression path duration on the explanation region

| Predictors | Estimates | CI | p |
|-------------------------------|-----------|--------------|--------|
| (Intercept) | 4.32 | 4.00 - 4.64 | <0.001 |
| Literal | 0.01 | -0.05 - 0.07 | 0.737 |
| Metaphor | -0.01 | -0.06 - 0.05 | 0.820 |
| Inhibitory Control | 0.00 | -0.00 - 0.00 | 0.319 |
| Difficulty | -0.04 | -0.14 - 0.07 | 0.517 |
| Familiarity | -0.11 | -0.190.03 | 0.005 |
| Literal* Inhibitory Control | 0.00 | -0.00 - 0.00 | 0.244 |
| Metaphor * Inhibitory Control | 0.00 | 0.00 - 0.00 | 0.028 |

Note: Concerned fixed effect variables are bolded if significant.