

Del Valle, C.H.C. y Mateos, P. (en prensa). Implicit mood-congruent memory bias in subclinical depression. *Emotion*, 0, 00-00

Abstract

Prior literature reports that the activation of conceptual processing is necessary, but it is not sufficient, for the detection of implicit mood-congruent memory bias. The present research investigated the effects of self-referential processing on such bias in individuals with subclinical depression. Accordingly, we have used two tasks: one requiring perceptual processing (Experiment 1) and the other conceptual processing (Experiment 2). Although no such bias was detected in the perceptual task, it was observed in the conceptual task, but only when the depressed individuals had encoded the adjectives in a more self-referential manner. The self-referential processing of emotional information during the encoding stage might implicitly and automatically activate the cognitive self-schema of these individuals. Subsequently, at the retrieval stage, the stored information would be more accessible according to the activation of these cognitive self-schema. Certain habitual modes of behaviour amongst depressed individuals, such as ruminations, are explained in the light of these results.

Keywords: emotion, implicit memory, conceptual priming, self-reference, subclinical depression.

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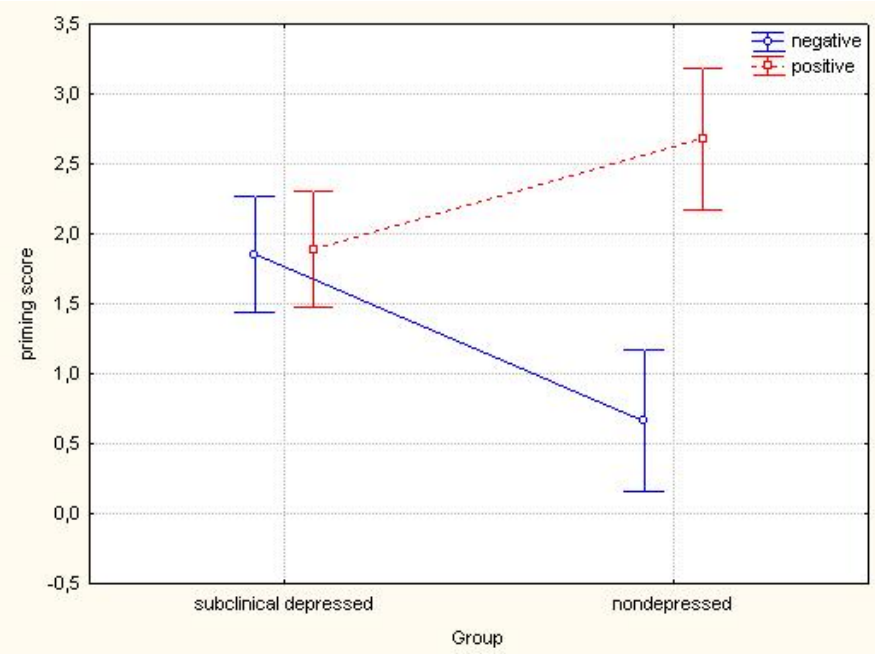


Fig. 1 Priming score in Word fragment completion as a function of Group and Word valence, for more self-referent adjectives.

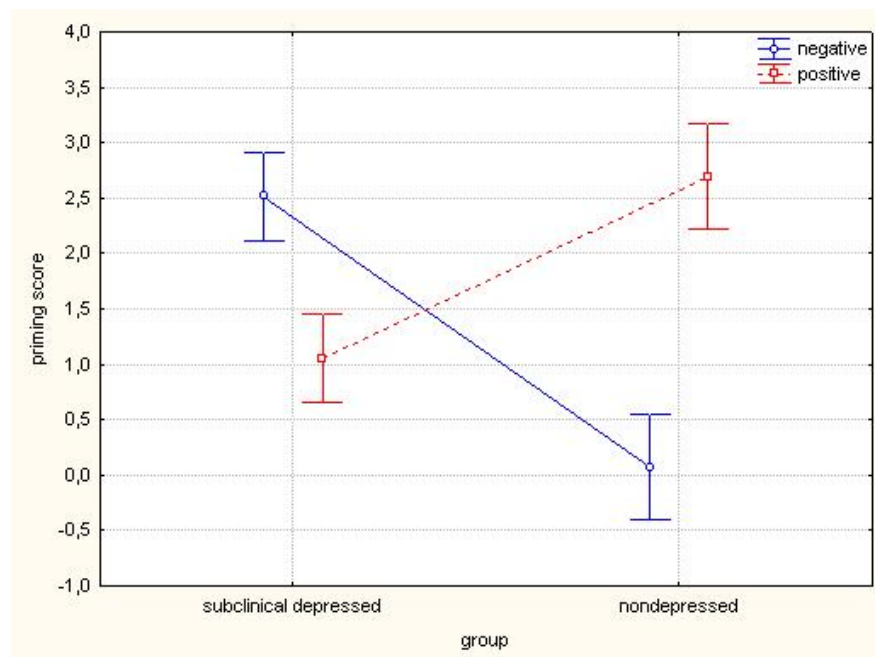


Fig. 2 Priming score in Semantic definition as a function of Group and Word valence, for the more self-referential adjectives.