


 Lola Thieffry^{1,2}, Lara Fernandes^{1,2}, Sandrine Detandt², & Ariane Bazan^{1,2}
¹ Laboratoire InterPsy (UR4432) – Université de Lorraine (UL), Nancy (France)

² Observatoire du Sida et des Sexualités – Université libre de Bruxelles (ULB), Brussels (Belgium)

Introduction

Freud (1901) proposed that slips of the tongue result from defensive processes.

In order to study the defensive dynamics underlying parapraxes, we adapted an existing paradigm to elicit slips of the tongue, namely the **Spoonerisms of Laboratory Induced Predisposition or SLIP-task** (e.g., Motley & Baars, 1976).

We considered two psychodynamic defense dynamics : the **primary and secondary process-defenses**. Primary process-defense is reflected in **desinhibited and associative thinking** searching for ‘perceptual identity’. Secondary process-defense is more organized and **inhibits the associations of the primary process** (Freud, 1900; Erdelyi, 2006).

Results

- Participants overall produced 37 slips : 21 taboo and 16 neutral slips (the difference is not significant : $p=.348$)
- The production of **neutral slips** is explained by both the **primary and secondary process measures** : $p<.001$; $R^2=25.7\%$)
- The production of **taboo slips** is **not** explained by these psychodynamic parameters ($p>.05$), but was predicted by the Marlowe-Crowne Social Desirability (MCSD)-scale, as high MCSD-scorers produced 2.7 times more taboo slips than low MCSD-scorers ($p=.025$)

Methods

- The SLIP-task (Figure 1) for the eliciting of neutral (e.g., *barn door* → *darn bore*) and taboo slips (e.g., *tool kits* → *cool tits*)
- Psychodynamic defense parameters:
 - Primary process-defense** : number of ‘attributional’ choices in the **Geometrical Categorization Task** (Bazan & Brakel, 2023; Figure 2), i.e., the number of choices based on superficial attributes.
 - Secondary process-defense** : number of Non-Related-choices in the **PN-WordList**. In the PN WordList, participants are presented with a prime word (e.g., *door*) and are asked to make a similarity forced-choice between (1) a Phonological (P) target (namely, a phonological inverse, e.g., *road*) and (2) a Non-related (N) related target (e.g., *lung*). Studies have shown that behavioral avoidance of P-choices, which is actually an aversion for phonological ambiguity (e.g., *door/road*) is an indicator of inhibitory defense (e.g., Bazan, 2019)

Conclusion

As the occurrence of ‘neutral’ slips are predictable by psychodynamic primary and secondary process parameters and indeed led to parapraxes despite being so-called ‘neutral’ we propose they reflect what is idiosyncratically ‘taboo’ for the intimate mental life. **The censorship over neutral slips is considered an internal instance of ‘inhibition’, equivalent to the censorship between the systems Unconscious and Preconscious in Freud’s metapsychology**

→ **repression**

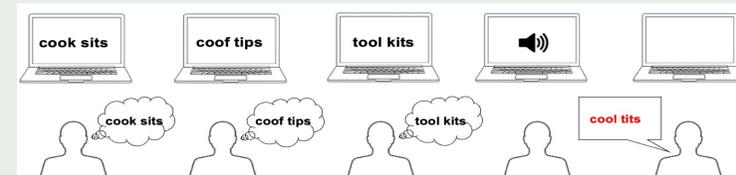
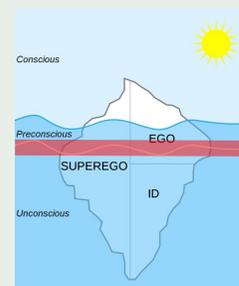


Figure 1 : example of an experimental trial designed to elicit a taboo slip. Participants are instructed to silently read word pairs that resemble the phonology of the intended slip (e.g., cook sits – coof tips) before being asked to read the target pair (tool kits) aloud.

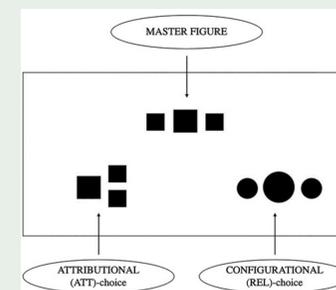
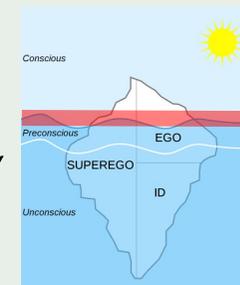


Figure 2 : example of one item of the GeoCat consisting of a master figure and Among these two two target figures. Among the targets, the participant is asked to choose the target figure that he considers the most similar to the master figure. The ATT-target consists of the same attributes as the master figure but in a different configuration and is thought to probe for the primary process mentation.

As the occurrence of ‘taboo’ slips is totally insensitive to the psychodynamic parameters but is sensitive to a social behavior scale (MCSD), we propose that **the censorship over taboo slips is an external instance of *social* inhibition, proximal to uttering, and equivalent to the censorship between the systems Preconscious and Conscious in Freud’s metapsychology**

→ **suppression**



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