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## **Semantic Priming of Complex German Verbs: Effects of Transparency**

We investigated whether transparent and opaque German particle verbs (e.g., 'hinfallen' vs. 'auffallen') are stored as a whole or decomposed in the mental lexicon.

Fifty-four participants participated in a cross-modal semantic priming experiment (prime: auditory particle verb, target: word semantically related to the stem, e.g., 'Sturz') with a lexical decision task. Analysis of reaction times (RTs) showed a main effect of block (faster RTs in second than in first block) and an interaction between condition and block: there were no effects of condition in the second block, but there was a significant priming effect for the transparent particle verbs that was absent for opaque verbs.

Our results show that the semantics of the stem is not retrieved for opaque particle verbs (no priming effect) and that the access of semantic information takes time (no priming effect in second, faster block).