

# Do we pronounce quotation marks? A comparison of referring and name-mentioning expressions

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Air quotes “everywhere”

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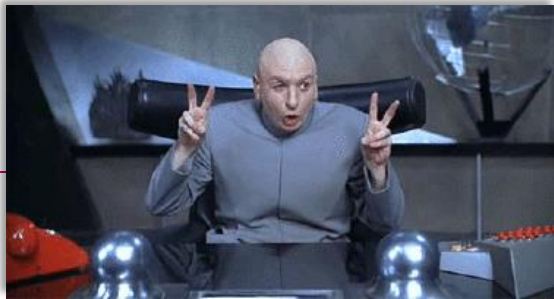


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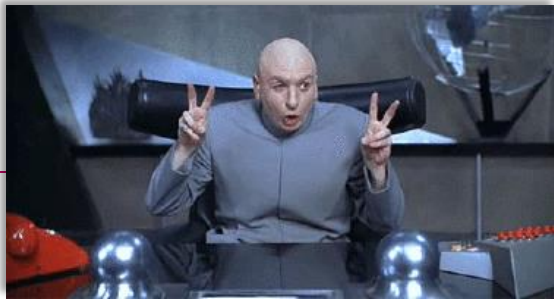
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# Introduction



Air quotes “everywhere”





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- The reference of the quoted material differs from the reference of the non-quoted material
- The quoted expression is somehow non-referential





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1 Semantic properties of quotation

2 Production study

3 Conclusion

# Semantic properties



- Expressions can be used denotationally
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  - (1) *The doctor diagnosed a sepsis.*
  
- They can also be used to mention the expression's name
  - (2) *Doctors call this disease "sepsis".*
  
- Or both be used and mentioned at one and the same time
  - (3) *The doctor diagnosed a "sepsis".*



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*“Paris”*

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- QMs are equivalent to demonstrative *so* (Härtl 2018, Härtl & Seeliger 2018)

*“Paris” – The capital of France is called so.*

$[[ \textit{so} ]]$   $\lambda x [\text{SIM}(x, x_{\text{target}}, F)]$  (Umbach & Gust 2014)

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*Doctors call this disease “sepsis”.*

$x$  call  $y$   $z$

$\exists e$  [CALL( $e$ ) & AGENT( $x$ ,  $e$ ) & THEME( $y$ ,  $e$ ) & NAME( $z$ ,  $y$ ,  $e$ )]



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- QMs are usually considered to be optional. But are they?
  - a. *The word “bigness” is a bit odd.*
  - b. *“Bigness” is a bit odd.*
  - c. *?Bigness is a bit odd.*



(1) Are quotes realized acoustically?

Previous studies focus on reported speech and / or are inconclusive  
(Kasimir 2008, Klewitz & Couper-Kuhlen 1999)

(2) Is the articulator sensitive to name mentioning?

Hypothesized stronger effect for (a) versus (b)

a. *Doctors call this disease “sepsis”.*

b. *Doctors diagnosed a “sepsis”.*

# Production study



- In each experimental case, there were two sentences
- **Sentence 1** was identical across the four conditions and presented a context:

*In bestimmten Klöstern gehört eine braune Tunika zur Grundausstattung.*  
'In specific monasteries a brown tunic is part of the basic equipment.'



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*In bestimmten Klöstern gehört eine braune Tunika zur Grundausrüstung.*  
'In specific monasteries a brown tunic is part of the basic equipment.'

- **Sentence 2** differed across the four conditions:

Naming

**Man nennt sie Kutte in Ordenskreisen.**

'One calls it Kutte among monks.'

**Man nennt sie „Kutte“ in Ordenskreisen.**

Referring

**Man kennt die Kutte in Ordenskreisen.**

'One knows the Kutte among monks.'

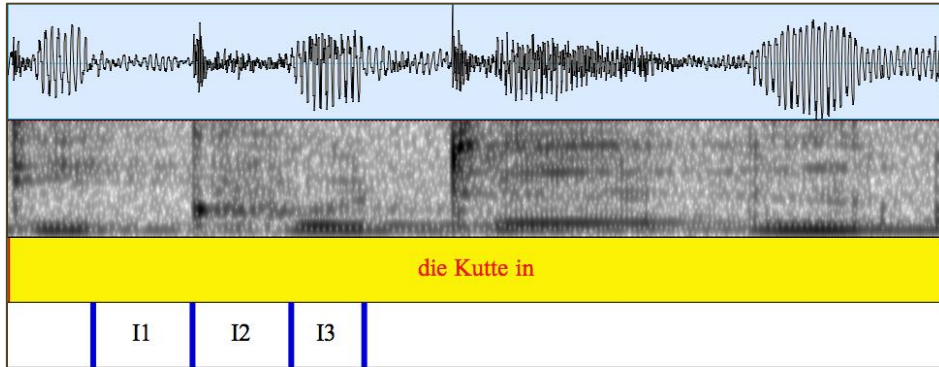
**Man kennt die „Kutte“ in Ordenskreisen.**



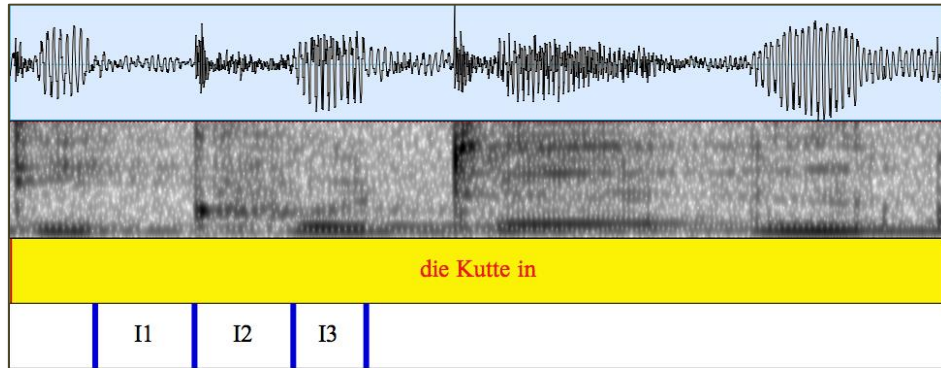
- Independent variables (within-subject and within-item)
  - QUOTATION MARKS (yes/no)
  - NAMING STATUS (yes/no)
  
- 8 native speakers of German
  
- 8 target nouns x 4 conditions  
*Kapern, Pappel, Kutte, Kippa, Koppel, Kate, Kiepe, Puppe*



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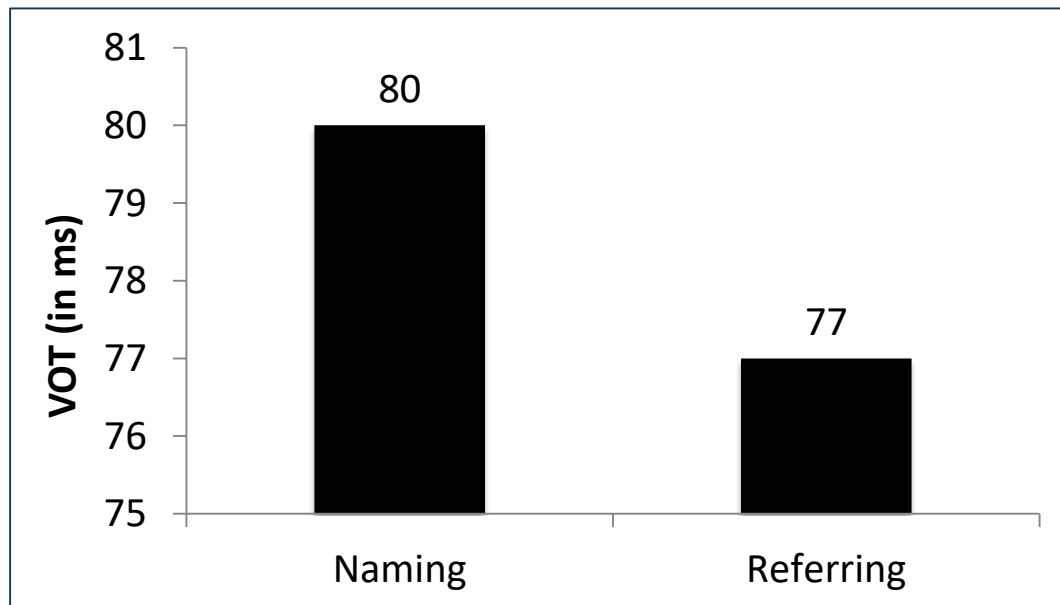


- Five dependent variables
  - Interval 1 (I1): Distance from end of [i:] to release of constriction of first plosive (in ms)
  - Interval 2 (I2): VOT of first plosive (in ms)
  - Interval 3 (I3): First nominal vowel
    - Duration (in ms)
    - Intensity maximum (in dB)
    - F0 maximum (in Hz)

# Production study: Results



Main effect of NAMING STATUS: **In naming contexts ...**



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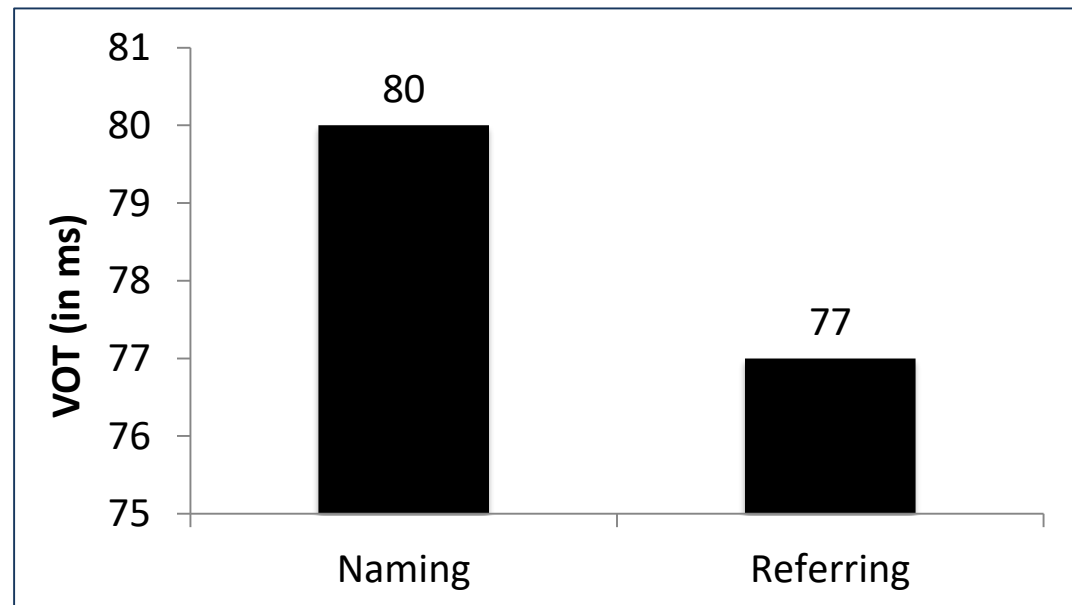


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- **Higher** Intensity
- **Higher** F0





But:

Naming

[sie] [Kutte]

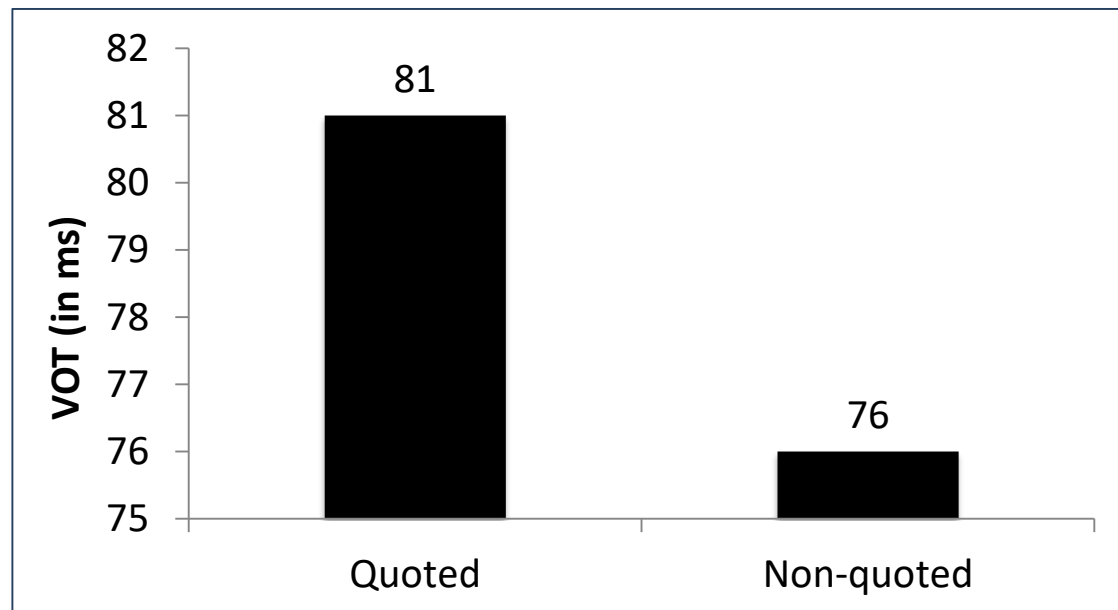
Referring

[die Kutte]

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Main effect of QUOTATION MARKS: **With quotation marks** ...



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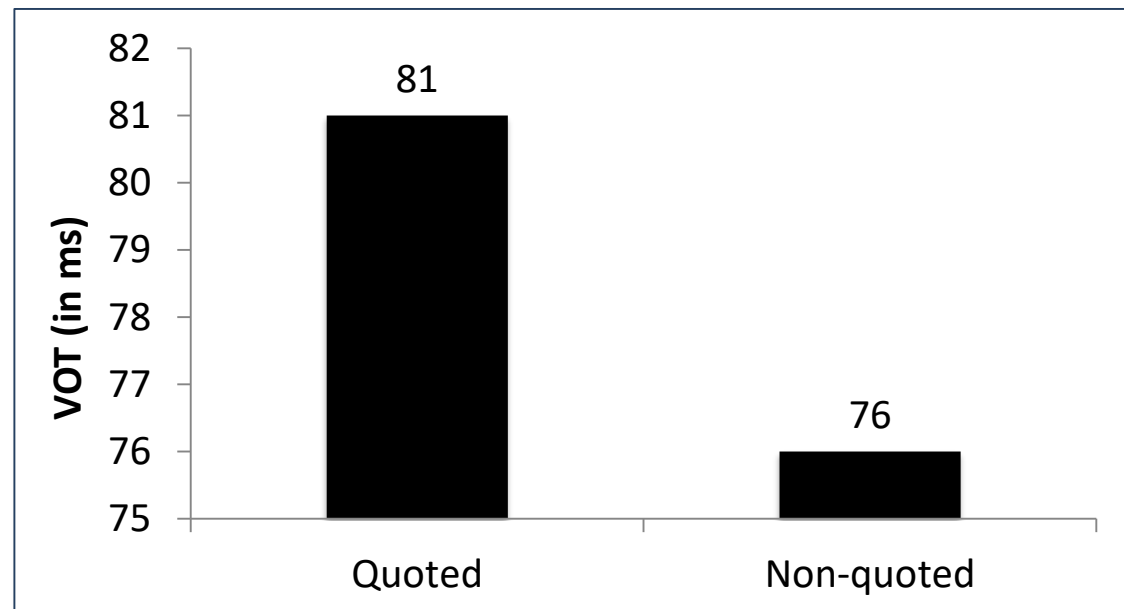


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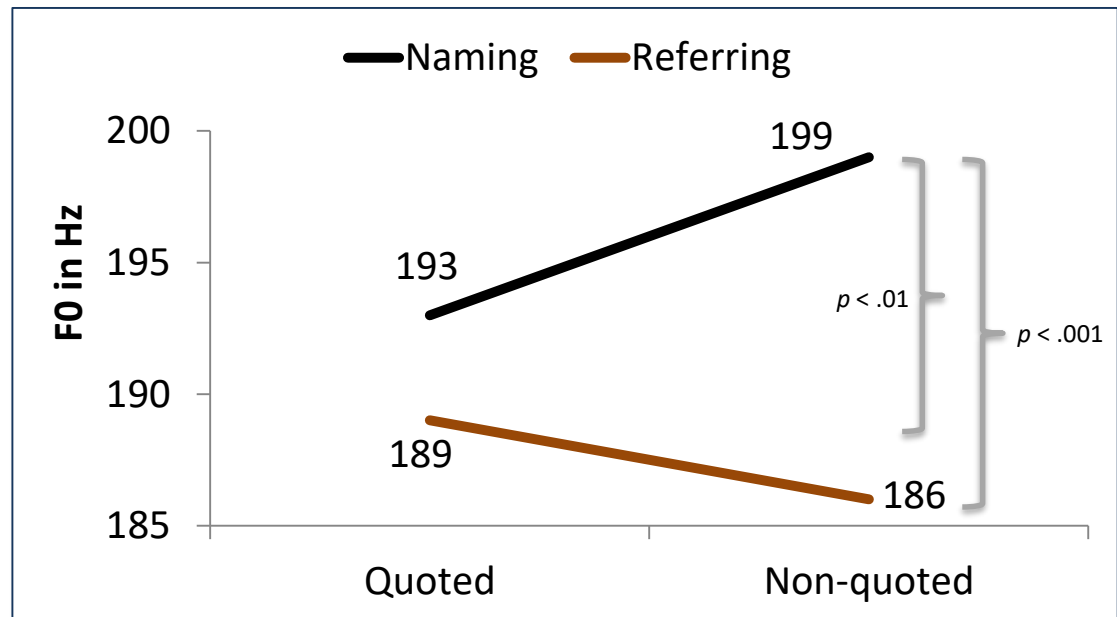
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## Interaction of NAMING STATUS X QUOTATION MARKS





# Production study: Results

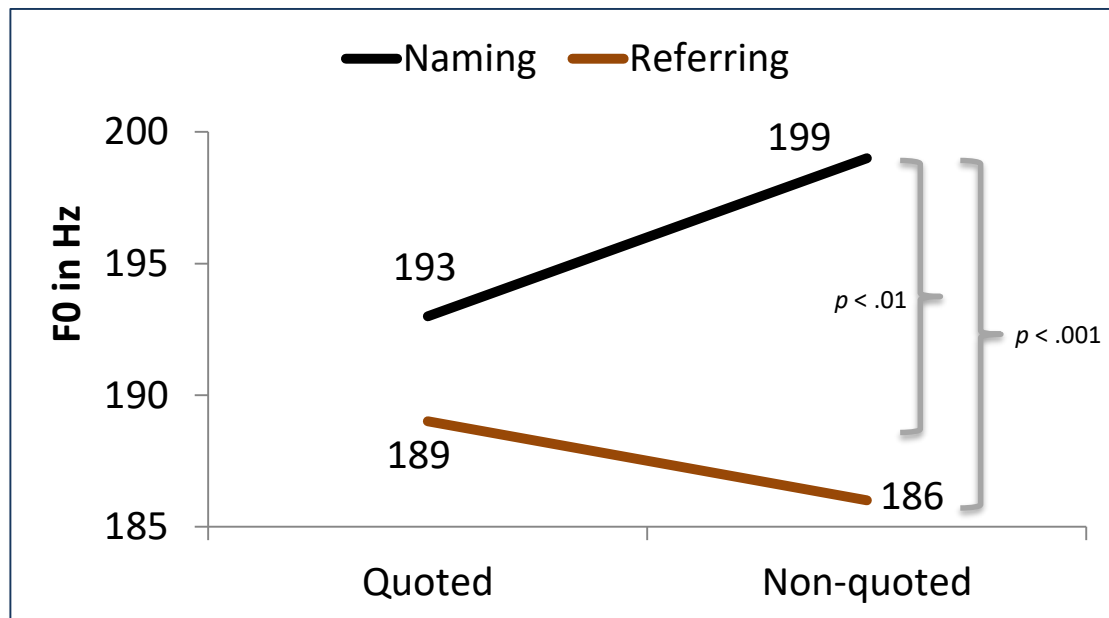


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Thank you.



References can be found in:

Härtl, H. (2018) Name-informing and distancing *sogenannt* ('so-called'): Name mentioning and the lexicon-pragmatics interface. Under revision for *ZfS*.

Härtl, Holden & Heiko Seeliger (2018) Is a so-called "beach" a beach? An empirically based analysis of secondary content induced by ironic name use. To appear in the volume *Secondary Content* (ed. by D. Gutzmann & K. Turgay) of the *Current Research in the Semantics / Pragmatics Interface* series.

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