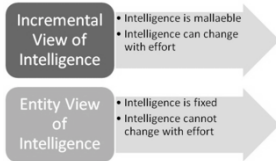# Attitudes towards the Immigration Policy:
The Effects of Entity and Incremental Language Mindsets

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INTRODUCTION

- Opinions and attitudes towards the Canadian immigration policy vary considerably (Simon & Lynch, 1999). Decisions about the immigration policy may have many implications for immigrants coming to Canada.
- Individuals with an entity language mindset view language ability as fixed and stable over time. Individuals with an incremental language mindset view language ability as adaptable and dynamic.
- In the current study, we proposed that individuals primed to have an incremental mindset would be more supportive of the immigration policy because of their belief that immigrants have more potential to improve their language ability, whereas the opposite would be true for individuals primed to have an entity mindset.

Incremental View of Intelligence
- Intelligence is malleable
- Intelligence can change with effort

Entity View of Intelligence
- Intelligence is fixed
- Intelligence cannot change with effort

STUDY OBJECTIVES

- It was hypothesized that individuals primed to have an incremental mindset would have more positive opinions about the immigration policy and immigrants in general, whereas the individuals primed to have an entity mindset would have more negative opinions on the policy and would have more avoidance attitudes towards immigrants.

METHOD

Participants:
- 80 native English speakers and Canadian-born students from the University of Alberta
- 42 participants in Incremental Condition; 38 participants in Entity Condition

Demographics:
- Ages: average 19 years old
- 71.25% of participants were female students (missing = 2)

Procedure:
- Participants were randomly assigned to read either an entity priming article or an incremental priming article.
- Afterwards, participants listened to a voice clip of a non-native speaker.
- Participants then had to answer survey questions and evaluate the proficiency of the speaker from the voice clip. The survey then transitioned into questions about their opinion of the immigration policy and their general attitude towards immigrants.

Materials:
- Articles: To manipulate mindsets of language ability, two mock articles from Lou's (2014) study were used (originally adapted from Hong et al., 1999).
- Voice clip: a brief clip (~2 minutes) of a Mandarin-speaker that was previously rated in Fang's (2013) research.

Measures:
- Language mindset inventory (18 items; α = .95; Lou & Noels, 2016)
- Perceived status (4 items; α = .89), warmth (6 items; α = .86), accentedness (4 items; α = .66), and competence (6 items; α = .89; Fiske et al., 2002)
- Perceived potential to improve (5 items; α = .83)
- Attitudes towards LINC (5 items; α = .82)

RESULTS

- The results showed that both the incremental and entity groups evaluated the level of accentedness and language ability of the person in the voice clip similarly.
- However, the incremental group believed that the immigrant had a greater potential to improve her language ability, whereas the opposite was true for the entity group.
- Participants' beliefs about the immigrant's potential of improvement predicted their positive attitudes towards the immigration policy.
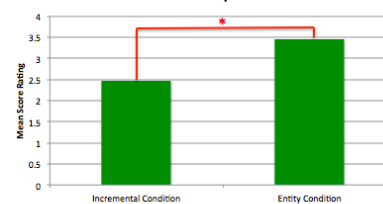

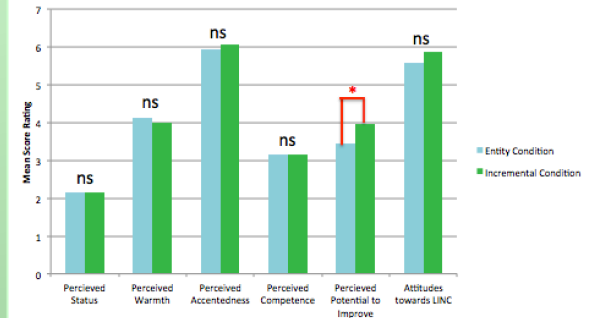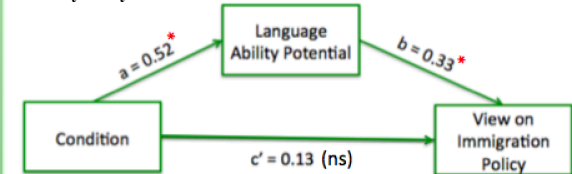*Figure 1.* The mean rating of manipulation check as a function of condition.

Figure 2. The mean rating of qualities from the immigrant in the voice clip and attitudes towards the LINC program. Only the perceived competence of the immigrant varied as a function of condition.

Pathway analysis:

Indirect Effect = 0.17, C.I. = [0.02, 0.47]

DISCUSSION

- Condition did not directly affect participants' attitude towards the immigration policy. Rather, condition influenced participants' view on immigrants' ability to improve, which in turn mediated their attitude towards the immigration policy.
- Because only university students were included, this may be a biased sample. Therefore, these results may not generalize to other populations.
- This research helps us recognize that individuals who have an entity mindset may be biased against immigration policies and may disapprove of government funding towards programs like LINC.
- The results suggests that language mindsets can influence policy making and educating individuals on language ability could create a more supportive policy for immigrants.