

TIP-OF-THE-TONGUE STATES AND RELATED PHENOMENA

When the memory retrieval process breaks down, people wonder exactly why and how such a thing occurs. In many cases, failed retrieval is accompanied by a “tip-of-the-tongue state,” a feeling that an unretrieved item is stored in memory. Tip-of-the-tongue states stand at the crossroads of several research traditions within cognitive science. Some research focuses on the nature of the retrieval failure. Other research tries to determine what tip-of-the-tongue states can tell us about the organization of lexical memory – that is, what aspects of a word we can recall when we are otherwise unable to do so. Still other research focuses on the nature of the experience of a tip-of-the-tongue state. Each of these perspectives is represented in this book, which presents the best theoretical and empirical work on these subjects. Much of the work is cross-disciplinary, but what unifies the topics in this book is that they concern strong phenomenological states of knowing that are not accompanied by recall or recognition of the desired information.

Bennett L. Schwartz is professor of psychology and Fellow of the Honors College at Florida International University. He received his PhD in cognitive psychology from Dartmouth College in 1993. He is the author of more than 50 publications, including journal articles, book chapters, edited books, and textbooks. He has published papers on animal memory, the language of thought, and adaptation and memory, but has worked most consistently on the tip-of-the-tongue phenomenon and issues of metacognition. He sits on the editorial board of several journals and is associate editor of the *Journal of Applied Research in Memory and Cognition*.

Dr. Alan S. Brown is a professor in the Psychology Department at Dedman College at Southern Methodist University. He received his BA from the College of Wooster and his PhD in human memory from Northwestern University in 1974. Dr. Brown has published more than 70 professional articles, as well as six books, on basic and applied areas of human memory and cognition. His primary interest is on investigating different varieties of memory dysfunction, such as the tip-of-the-tongue experience, déjà vu, inadvertent plagiarism, and retrieval interference. He has refereed journal articles submitted to more than 30 journals, and he currently serves as consulting editor for *Memory and Cognition*.

Tip-of-the-Tongue States and Related Phenomena

Edited by

Bennett L. Schwartz

Florida International University

Alan S. Brown

Southern Methodist University



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Contributors

MELISA AKAN, Boğaziçi University, Istanbul, Turkey

ELISABETH BACON, INSERM, Strasbourg, France

ROSEMARY BRADLEY, University of Leeds, England, UK

ALAN S. BROWN, Southern Methodist University, TX, USA

SARAH BUCHANAN, University of Leeds, England, UK

ANA BUJÁN, University of Santiago de Compostela, Santiago de Compostela, Spain

ANNE M. CLEARY, Colorado State University, CO, USA

KATIE CROFT CADERAO, Southern Methodist University, TX, USA

FERNANDO DÍAZ, University of Santiago de Compostela, Santiago de Compostela, Spain

ANASTASIA EFKLIDES, Aristotle University of Thessaloniki, Greece

DAVID FACAL, University of Santiago de Compostela and INGEMA Foundation, San Sebastián, Spain

SANTIAGO GALDO-ÁLVAREZ, University of Santiago de Compostela, Santiago de Compostela, Spain

J. RICHARD HANLEY, University of Essex, England, UK

TREVOR A. HARLEY, University of Dundee, Scotland, UK

MARIE IZAUTE, Blaise Pascal University, Clermont-Ferrand, France

FREDRIK U. JÖNSSON, Stockholm University, Stockholm, Sweden

ONÉSIMO JUNCOS-RABADÁN, University of Santiago de Compostela,
Santiago de Compostela, Spain

DILAY ZEYNEP KARADOLLER, Boğaziçi University, Istanbul, Turkey

KIMBERLY R. KLEIN, Colorado State University, CO, USA

ASHER KORIAT, University of Haifa, Haifa, Israel

MÓNICA LINDÍN, University of Santiago de Compostela, Santiago de
Compostela, Spain

SIOBHAN B. G. MACANDREW, School of Health and Social Sciences,
University of Abertay, Dundee, UK

JANET METCALFE, Columbia University, NY, USA

CHRIS J. A. MOULIN, University of Bourgogne, Dijon, France

RAVIT NUSSINSON, Open University of Israel, Ra'anana, Israel

JUSTIN D. OH-LEE, Central Michigan University, MI, USA

HAJIME OTANI, Central Michigan University, MI, USA

ARTURO X. PEREIRO, University of Santiago de Compostela, Santiago de
Compostela, Spain

BENNETT L. SCHWARTZ, Florida International University, FL, USA

CELINE SOUCHAY, University of Bourgogne, Dijon, France

SHELLY R. STALEY, Colorado State University, CO, USA

RICHARD J. STEVENSON, Macquarie University, Sydney, Australia