JOSHUA LEDERBERG

Al Rothenberg.

APR - 7 1981

James invited.

Dear Al -

Thank you for the ms. Certainly I have no complaint, no reason to withhold permission.

I do have some comments:

1) IQ. Where did you find a group of undergraduates that could compete with an Arthur Kornberg? (Not all the Nobelists in your group have notably superior intelligence)

2). Other hypotheses

I am impressed that all of your groups should have latencies for "opposite" vs "nonopposite primary" responses.

So I wondered if antonyms are easier to find than synonyms — the latter being a subset of your primaries.

Certainly this would be the case in French which is notably bereft of synonyms.

In the extreme case, a word might have no synonyms but would almost always have an antonym.

Your analysis would be enhanced if you included ~~cat~~ classification by other criteria, and showed that those failed, in contrast to the jamming cut.

For example: how about responses that are semantically related ① regardless of negation vs. others that are part of common clichés ② vs others that are linguistically idiosyncratic

stimulus	e.g. response
HOT	COLD ①
	PANTS, DOG ②
	JOULE
	BURN
	RED

} categories

JOSHUA LEDERBERG

Surely there is a substantial literature on word association classification.

My theory is that your creative people (most of them) are also verbally facile. A fast opposite may be an elaborated repressive defense against more stressful associations! If this is correct this group will exhibit a stereotyped technique, e.g. elaboration of opposites.

Yours,

J

P.S. Do you know of any literature on role-swapping as a mode of discourse? If enclosure.