ABSTRACT

THE EFFECT OF IMAGERY ON MEANING AND FORM RECOGNITION AND RECALL OF IDIOMS

By

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This research project aims at investigating whether the use of imagery – pictures and etymological notes – has a facilitative effect on the recognition and recall of the form and meaning of American idioms. Spanish speakers \( n = 71 \) enrolled in English programs in Argentina participated in a pretest, a learning phase activity, and an immediate post-test. One week later, participants \( n = 39 \) took a delayed post-test in-person or online. All tests had the same format: a sentence completion task, a receptive form multiple-choice task, a definition task, and a receptive meaning multiple-choice task. Results indicate that all conditions – including pictures, etymological notes, and the combination of both – had no statistically significant differences between them, and thus, they all contributed to idiom learning. However, the data also show a tendency for pictures to facilitate structural elaboration of idioms in the short-term while etymological notes seem to hinder it.