The Flexible Correction Model (FCM: Wegener & Petty, 1997) suggests that people can adjust their judgments toward a target if they are aware of the contextual effect which may bias their judgments. The present study examined if the jurors whose attention were attracted to the burning emotion of “victim participant” would be conscious of the possible bias in their judgments and, as a result of an overcorrection, make judgments in favor of the defendants. To make mock jurors be conscious of the possible bias in their judgments, the hypothetical victim’s mother or father was depicted to serve as the “victim participant” who expresses bald emotions in court. 131 Japanese undergraduate students participated in the study. They read a scenario depicting a mock trial and made judgments on the appropriate punishment for a homicidal defendant. The scenarios were manipulated on who the “victim participant” was (victim’s mother, father, or their lawyer) and their emotional reaction (anger, grief, or impassive). In the bias-inducing condition, the victim’s parent was depicted to express their emotion in bar. Respondents’ sentence judgments in such conditions were compared to those in the control condition where the victim’s lawyer talked unemotionally. Contrary to our assumption, the ANOVA revealed that the two manipulated factors (victim participant type and their reaction) had no significant effect on the sentences the respondents gave. In this study, overcorrection based on FCM was not observed. Moreover, whether the “victim participant” showed emotional or impassive reactions had no influences on sentence. Japanese legal experts consider the “victim’s participation” system as problematic because the judgments of citizen judges (naive lay public) would likely be influenced by the degree of emotion expressed by crime victims and their family, consequently giving overly severe penalty to the defendants. However, the empirical findings of this study showed a lack of impact of “victim participants” on sentences.

Keywords: contextual effect, judgement, victim participant, bias

The effect of different types of music on mood and verbal performance

This study aimed to investigate the arousal and mood effect of different types of music on verbal performance, on the basis that: 1) there are shared neural substrates between language and music such that the brain processes language like music in terms of its auditory properties like tone and pitch; and 2) music training can improve children’s reading ability. Seventy-eight English-speaking undergraduates were selected based on their neither-type preference in the Composite Scale of Morningness to control for chronotype. They were allocated randomly to 3 different music conditions in order to induce a corresponding emotion: happy, sad and neutral (control) conditions. The different music types controlled for mood between conditions, with each group consisting of 26 participants. Positive and negative affect as measured by PANAS was taken pre- and post-music exposure. Verbal performance as measured by PPVT4 was taken after music listening. Behavioural responses as measured by finger tapping was obtained during music listening. Results showed that listening to different types of music did not induce significant changes in one’s positive and negative affect or arousal. Although participants tapped more in happy music than in sad music, there were no significant differences in verbal performance among the 3 music conditions. It was concluded that different types of music may selectively affect only certain cognitive tasks and can have differential effect on various behavioural and cognitive measures. Methodological issues and implications of the use of music in language learning are discussed.

Keywords: arousal, mood, music, verbal performance

The effect of leader-member exchange and coworker trust on safety behavior

In the present study, we examined leader-member exchange and coworker trust as predictors of safety behavior. Drawing on social