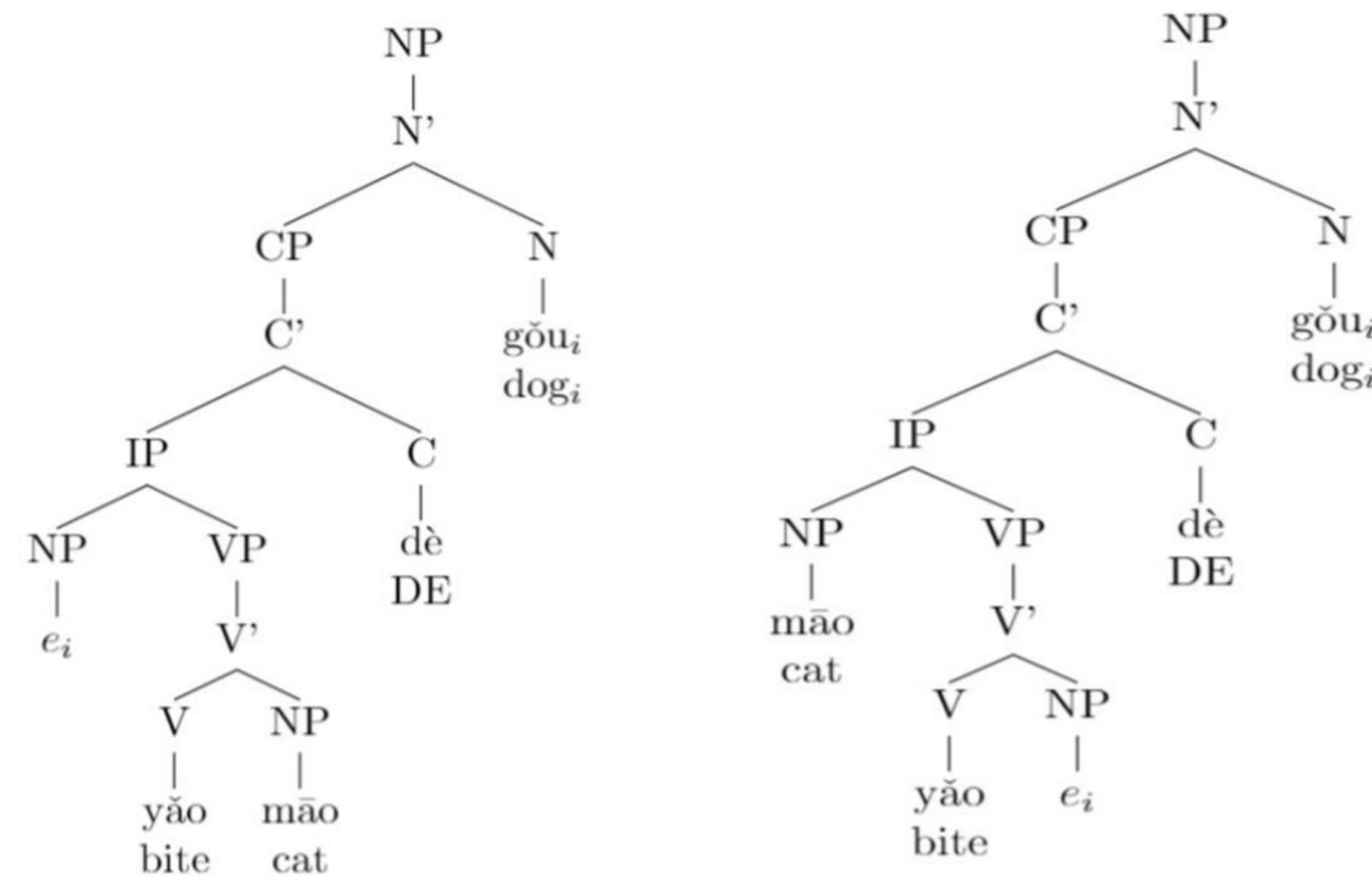


## Introduction

## Method

## Results

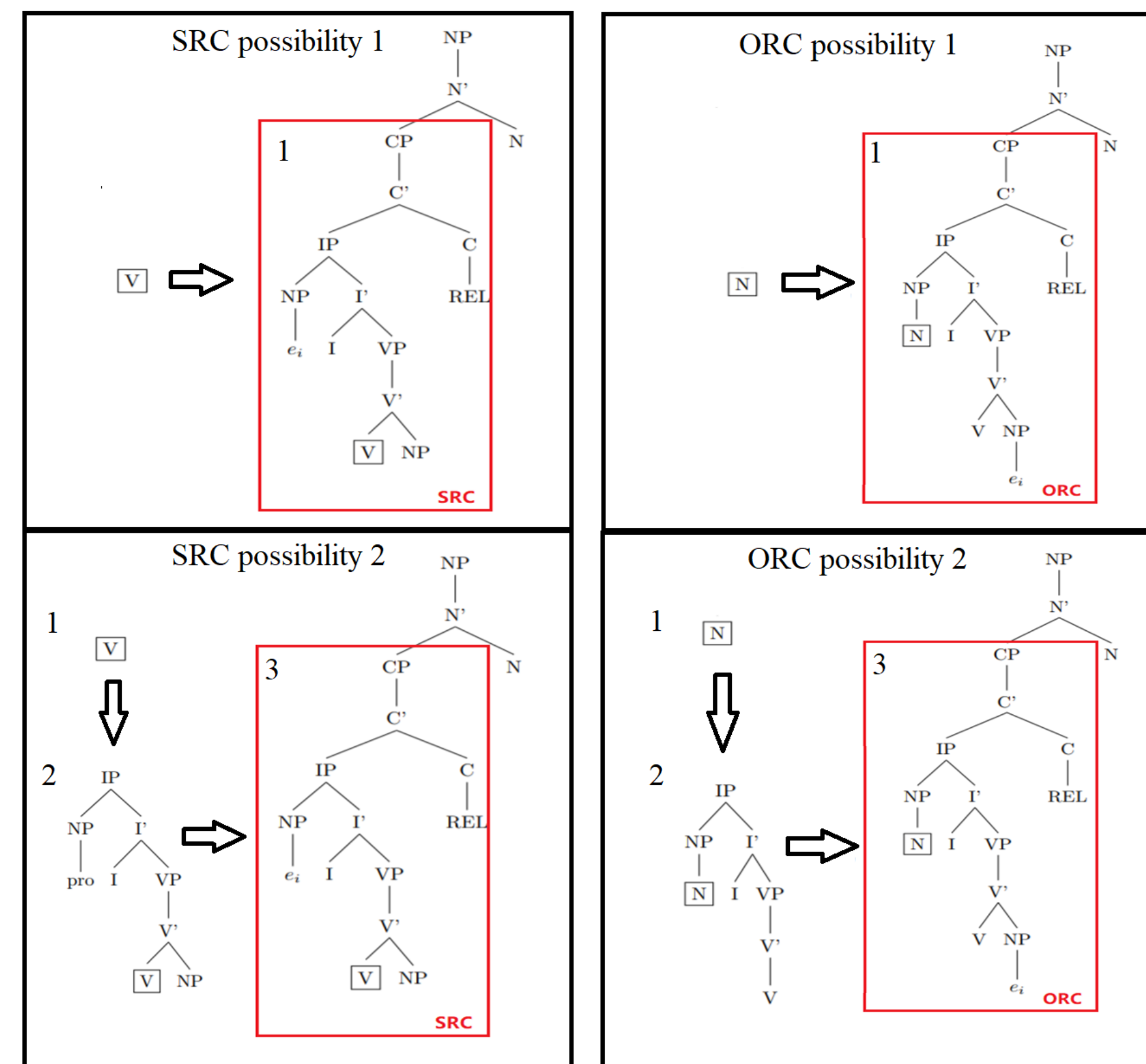
- Subject and Object Relative Clause in Chinese:



Subject-relative Clause

Object-relative Clause

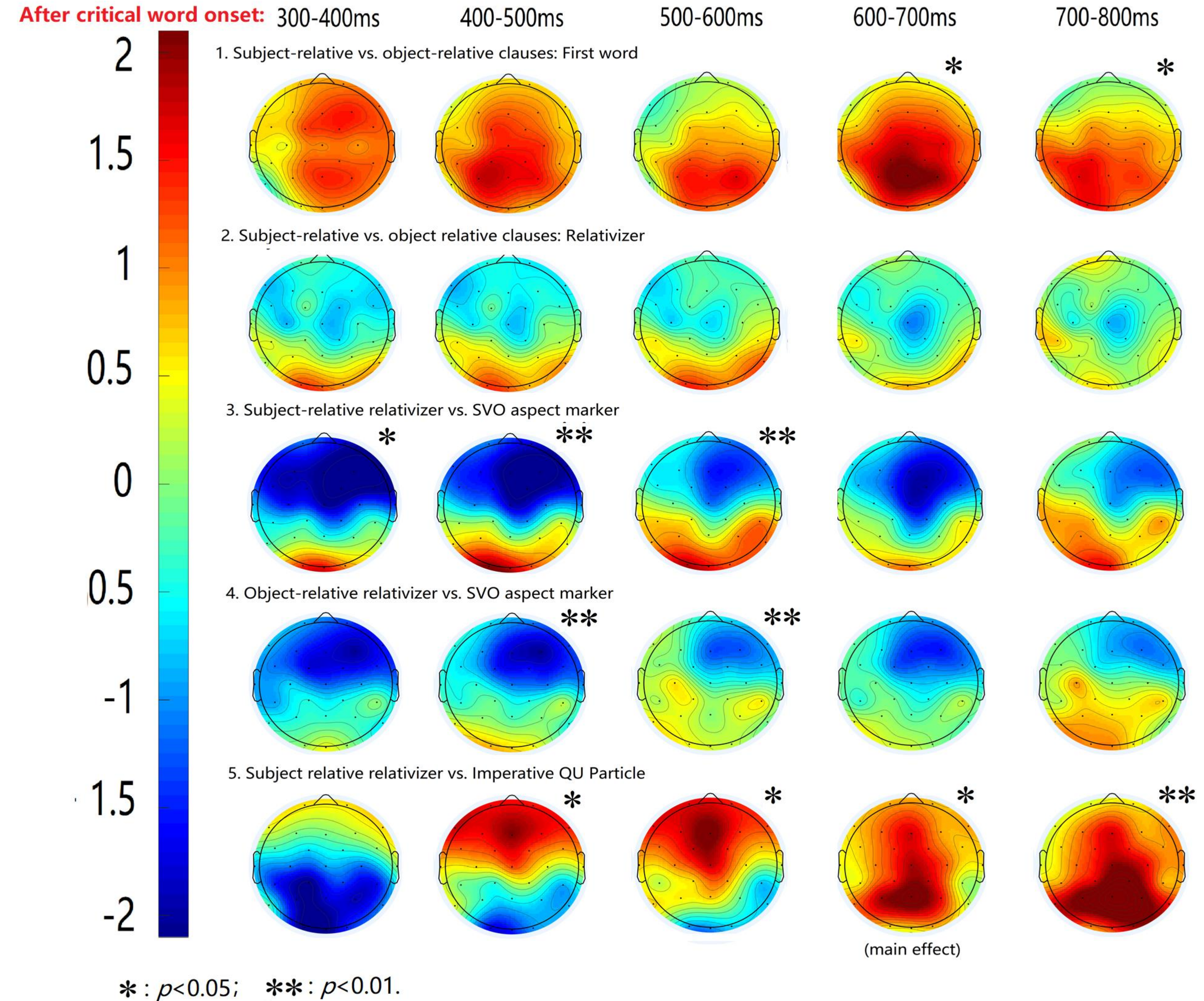
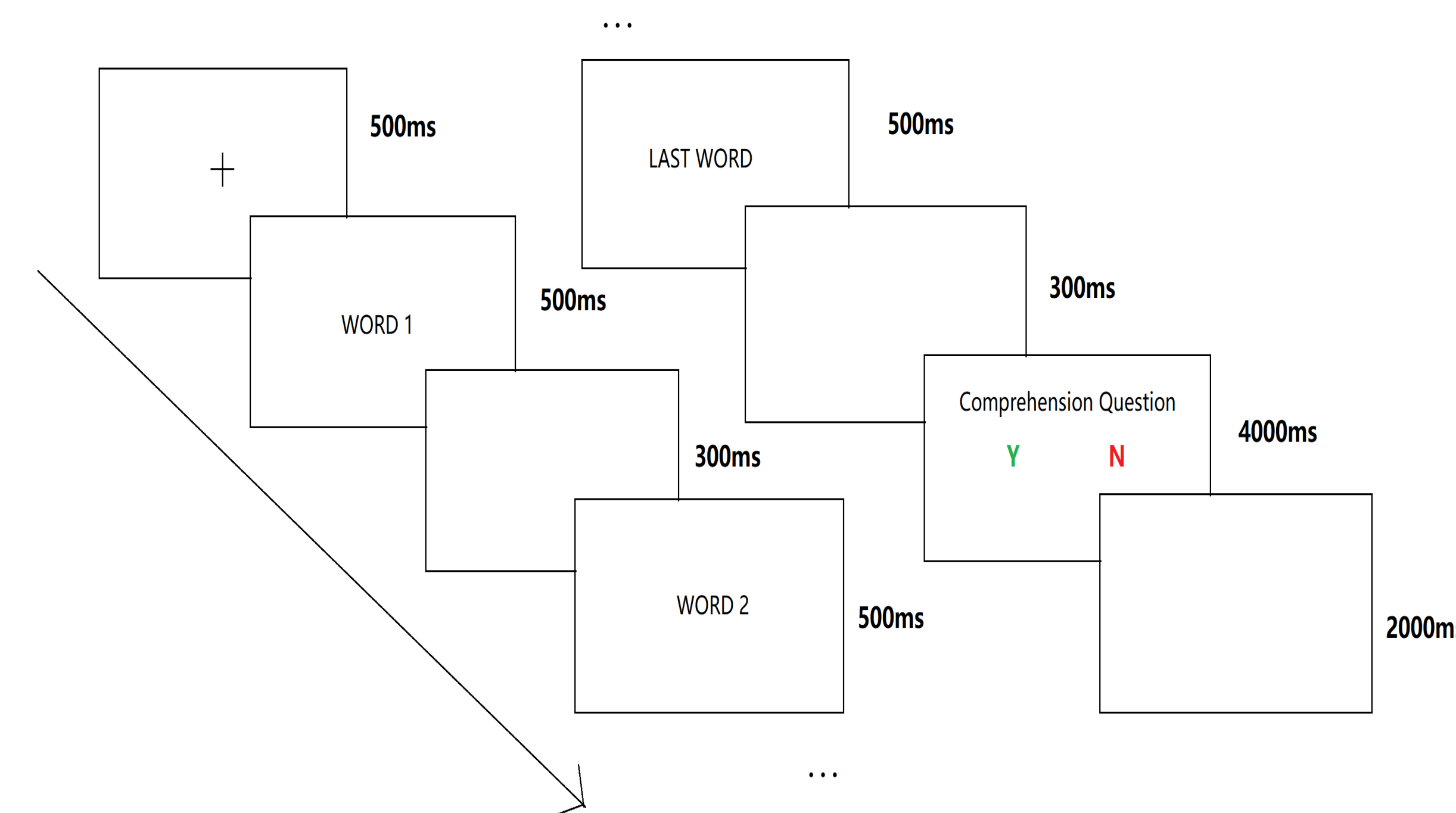
- Mixed results: increased processing costs for either subject-relative clauses or object-relative clause; (Hsiao & Gibson, 2003; Jäger, Chen, Li, Lin, & Vasishth, 2015; Lin & Bever, 2006)
- Expectations for non-RC structures may play a role:



- Participants: Twenty native Chinese speakers: 5 males, 15 females, age: 19.75, SD: 3.076, range: 18-32
- Materials:

Condition	Example Test Stimuli
Subject relative clause	小明说: 追猫的大黑狗确实胖胖的。 Xiaoming shuo: zhui mao de daheigou qushi pangpangde. Xiaoming say: chase cat REL big black dog indeed fat Xiaoming said: "The big black dog that chases the cat is fat indeed"
Imperative (pro-drop)	小明说, 追猫去吧。 Xiaoming shuo, zhui mao qu ba. Xiaoming say, chase cat QU BA Xiaoming said: "Let's go chase the cat."
Object relative clause	小明说, 猫追的大黑狗确实胖胖的。 Xiaoming shuo mao zhui de daheigou qushi pangpangde. Xiaoming say cat chase REL big black dog indeed fat Xiaoming said: "The big black dog that the little white cat chases is fat indeed."
SVO	小明说, 猫追了大黑狗。 Xiaoming shuo, mao zhui le daheigou. Xiaoming say, cat chase ASP big black dog Xiaoming said: "the cat chased the big black dog."

- Critical Regions: first words in relative clause, and relativizer (and equivalent);
- Procedure



## Conclusions

- Processing Cost:**
  - Subject-relative clauses are initially more difficult to process than object-relative clauses, though they incur a similar processing cost at the relative-clause marker.
- Structural Expectations:**
  - Verb-initial clause triggers early expectation for a subject-relative clause structure;
  - Noun-initial clause **does not** trigger expectation for object-relative clause;
  - Expectation for relative clause emerge at relative clause verb in subject-relative clauses, and at relativizer in object-relative clauses
  - Imperative, despite its simpler structure, was not the preferred expectation at any point in subject-relative clauses.

## References

Hsiao, F., & Gibson, E. (2003). Processing Relative Clauses in Chinese, 90(1), 3–27.  
 Jäger, L., Chen, Z., Li, Q., Lin, C.-J. C., & Vasishth, S. (2015). The subject-relative advantage in Chinese: Evidence for expectation-based processing, 79–80, 97–120.  
 Lin, C. C., & Bever, T. G. (2006). Subject Preference in the Processing of Relative Clauses in Chinese (pp. 254–260).  
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## Research Questions

## Analysis

- Which one of the relative clauses is easier to process?
- Do structural expectations influence processing of Chinese relative clauses?
- At what point are expectations for relative clause structures constructed?

Mixed effects regression  
 Fixed effects of anterior/posterior, left/right, condition, group  
 Random effect of participant  
 Artifacts removed with ICA  
 Epoch length: -100 to 2400 ms after onset of first word in relative clause (and corresponding positions)  
 Voltage threshold ( $\pm 75\mu\text{V}$ ) epoch rejection

