

Connection, Horizontal Circumplex Dimension

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Connection, Horizontal Circumplex Dimension

- **The research paradigm involves manipulating a listener's responsiveness. We are interested in the effect on the speaker.**
- **In this study we manipulated responsiveness by putting time pressure on listeners. Speakers told about vulnerable experiences to rushed vs. responsive listeners.**

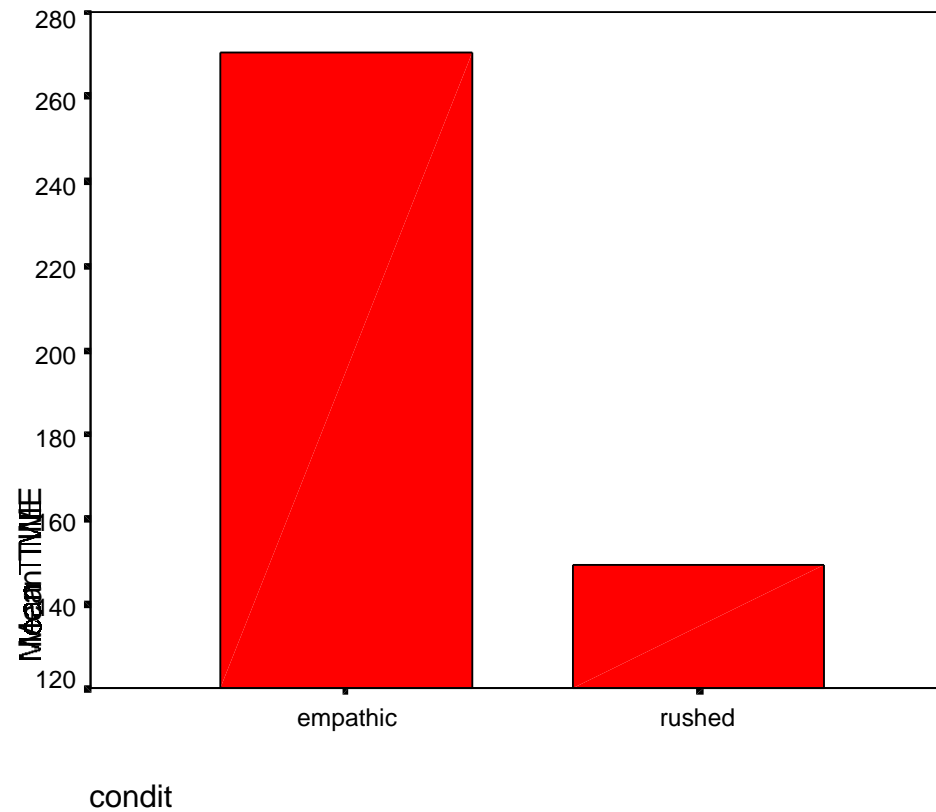
Participants and Instructions

- **There were 37 student dyad, 17 in the non-rushed or empathic condition and 20 in the rushed condition.**
- **Speakers were told to tell a story about an experience that made them feel vulnerable, when they felt misunderstood or unfairly criticized, or wanted reassurance from another person and couldn't get it.**

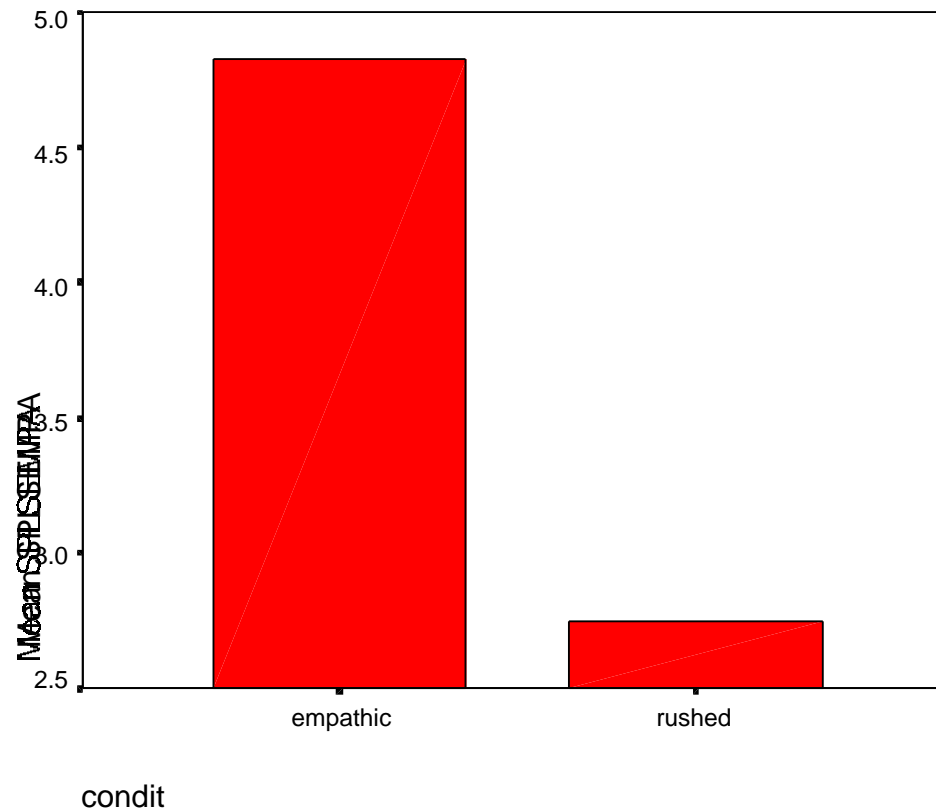
The Manipulation

- **Listeners in the non-rushed or empathic condition were told to be emotionally attuned and communicate understanding the way they would with a friend.**
- **Listeners in the rushed condition were told to hurry the speaker without saying anything, using whatever means that seemed best. There was a prize for the least amount of time.**

Results: Length of Story



Speaker Ratings of Listeners



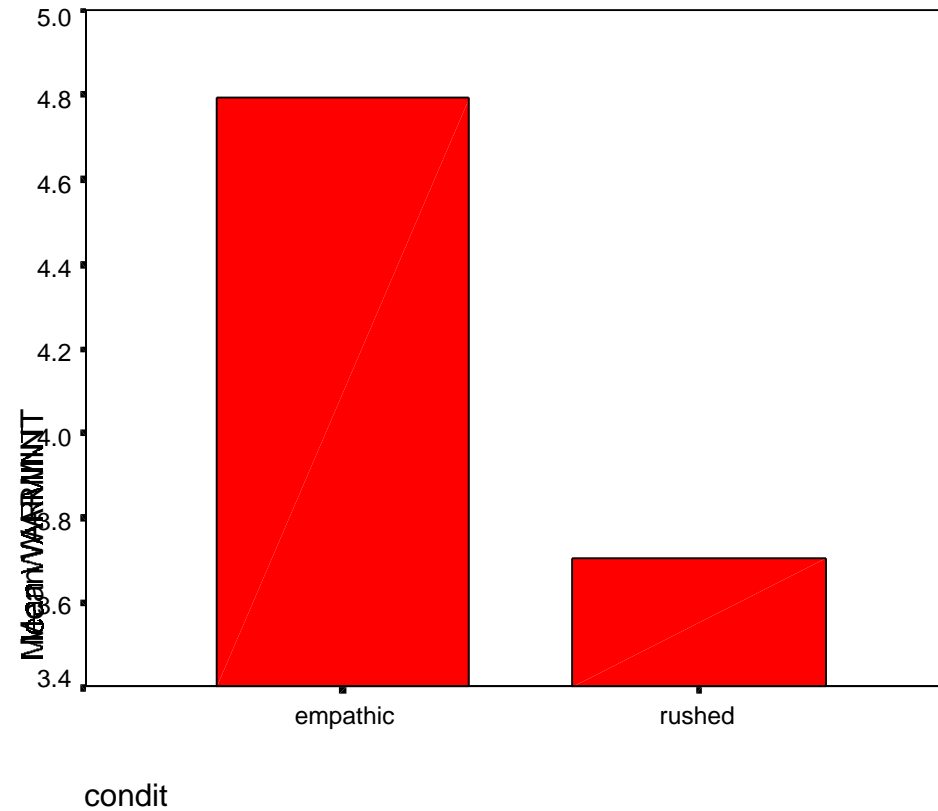
Speaker Reactions

- **Speakers felt less engaged and less responsible for the interaction. They also expected that listeners would be less likely to want to interact again or be friends, and would rate them less well overall.**
- **They did not differ in ratings of listeners' social skills.**

Speaker Ratings of Themselves

- **Speakers did not differ in how vulnerable they felt, how well told or how interesting they thought their stories were, or in the intimacy level of the story.**

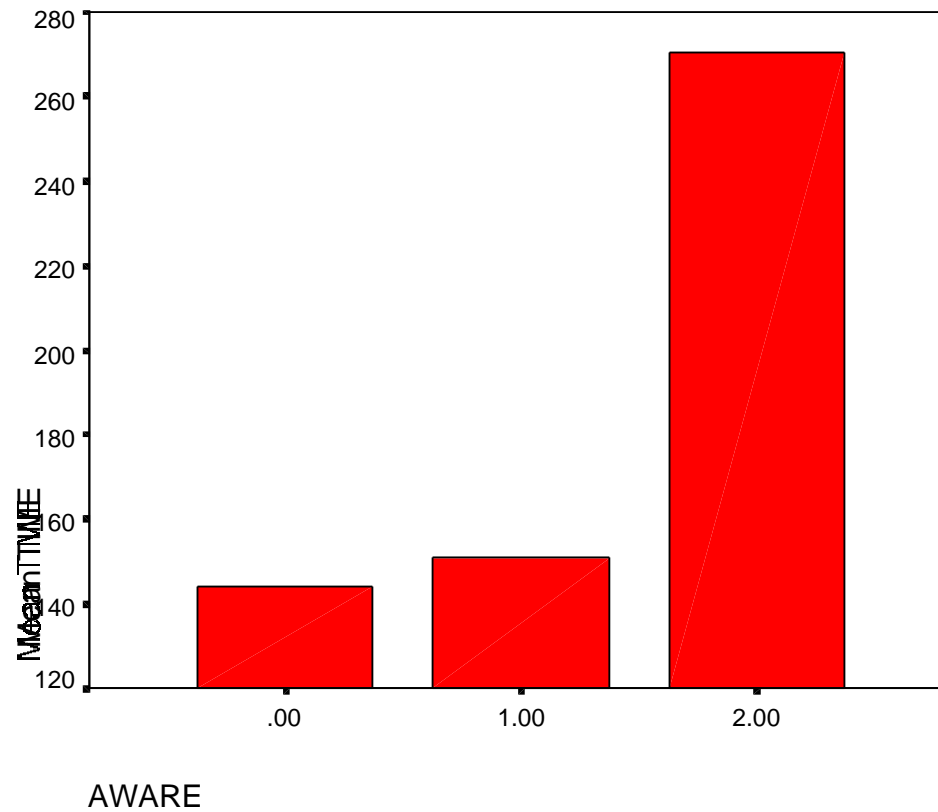
Listeners' Reactions



Rushed Aware vs. Rushed Not-aware

- **Some participants were not aware they were being rushed. We divided speakers into three groups: rushed aware (n = 16), rushed not-aware (n = 4), and speakers with empathic listeners (n = 17).**
- **MANOVA revealed that both aware and not-aware rushed speakers told shorter stories $F(2, 34) = 3.9, p. < .05$, than speakers with empathic listeners.**

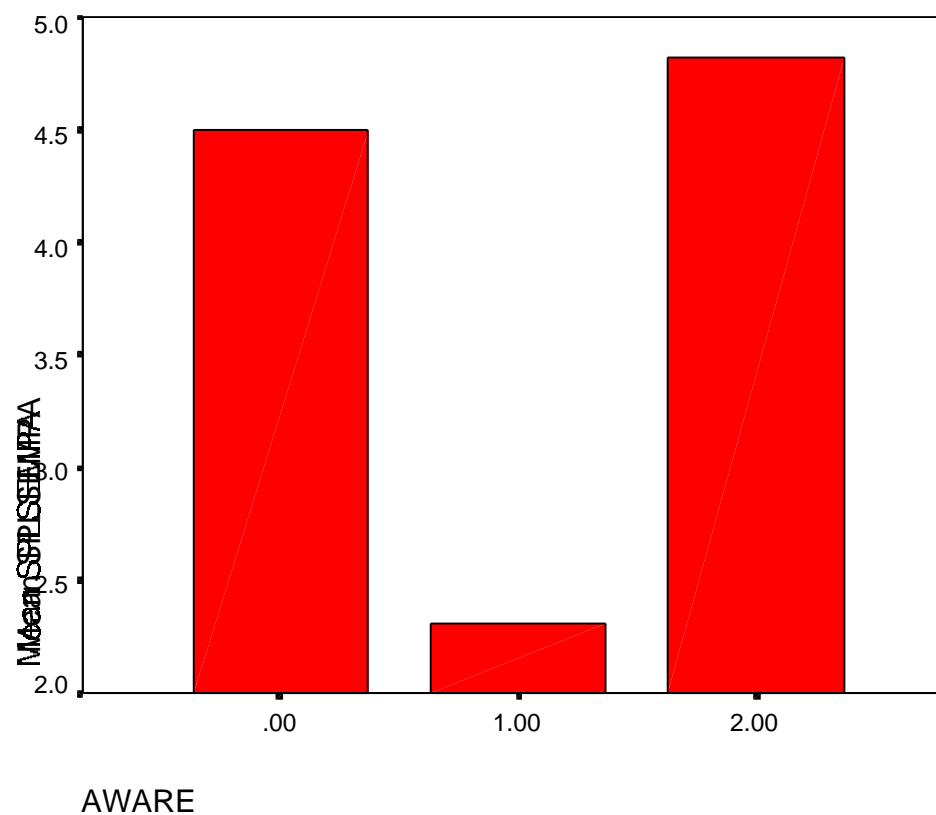
Length of Story



Rushed Aware vs. Not-aware Ratings

- **Rushed not-aware speakers rated listeners as highly as speakers with empathic listeners. They rated them significantly more positively than speakers in the rushed-aware condition $F(2, 34) = 4.56, p < .001$.**

Speaker Ratings of Listeners



Conclusion

- **Time pressure makes listeners significantly less responsive.**
- **Speakers' reactions to rushed listeners are negative.**
- **Speakers cut their stories short, rate the listeners more negatively than they rate empathic listeners, and experience less warmth and more negative emotion.**
- ...

Conclusion (2)

- **... and,**
- **Speakers who are not aware of being rushed cut their stories short, but respond as positively to listeners as speakers in the empathic condition.**