

## Introduction

- ▶ We experience narratives in texts, comics, and movies
- ▶ How does the media of a narrative affect how we understand narratives?
- ▶ Coherence building - inferring connections



Thor looked at his sword, frowning, and Loki gestured for Thor to follow him.

Thor followed Loki through a small back door of the castle.

**Pictures:**  
Afford visual cohesion in agents, objects and setting

**Text:**  
Afford afford lexical and semantic cohesion

- ▶ Thinking aloud is one approach to study how people make sense of narratives (Trabasso & Magliano, 1996)
- ▶ Natural language processing tools provide one basis for exploring coherence building (Allen et al, 2016)

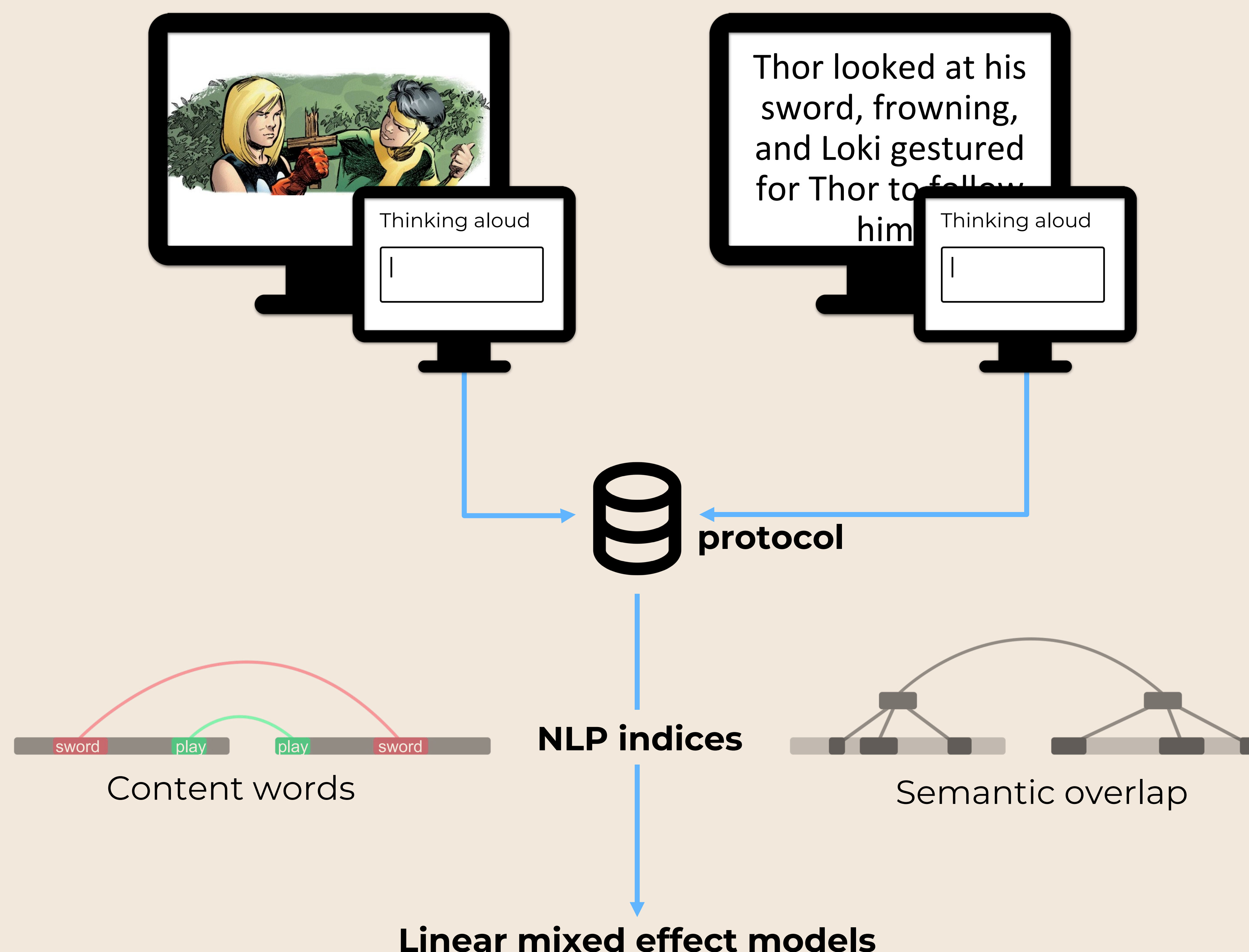
## Research Goals

**Goal :**  
To explore if media affects the coherence of the content of people's talk about the narratives.

## Hypotheses

- ▶ Lexical Precision Hypothesis
- ▶ Privileged Access Hypothesis
- ▶ General Skill Hypothesis

## Methods



## Hypotheses

- ▶ The results shows mixed support depending measure of cohesion
  - Lexical cohesion - Lexical Precision Hypothesis
  - Semantic cohesion - Privileged Access Hypothesis

## Implications

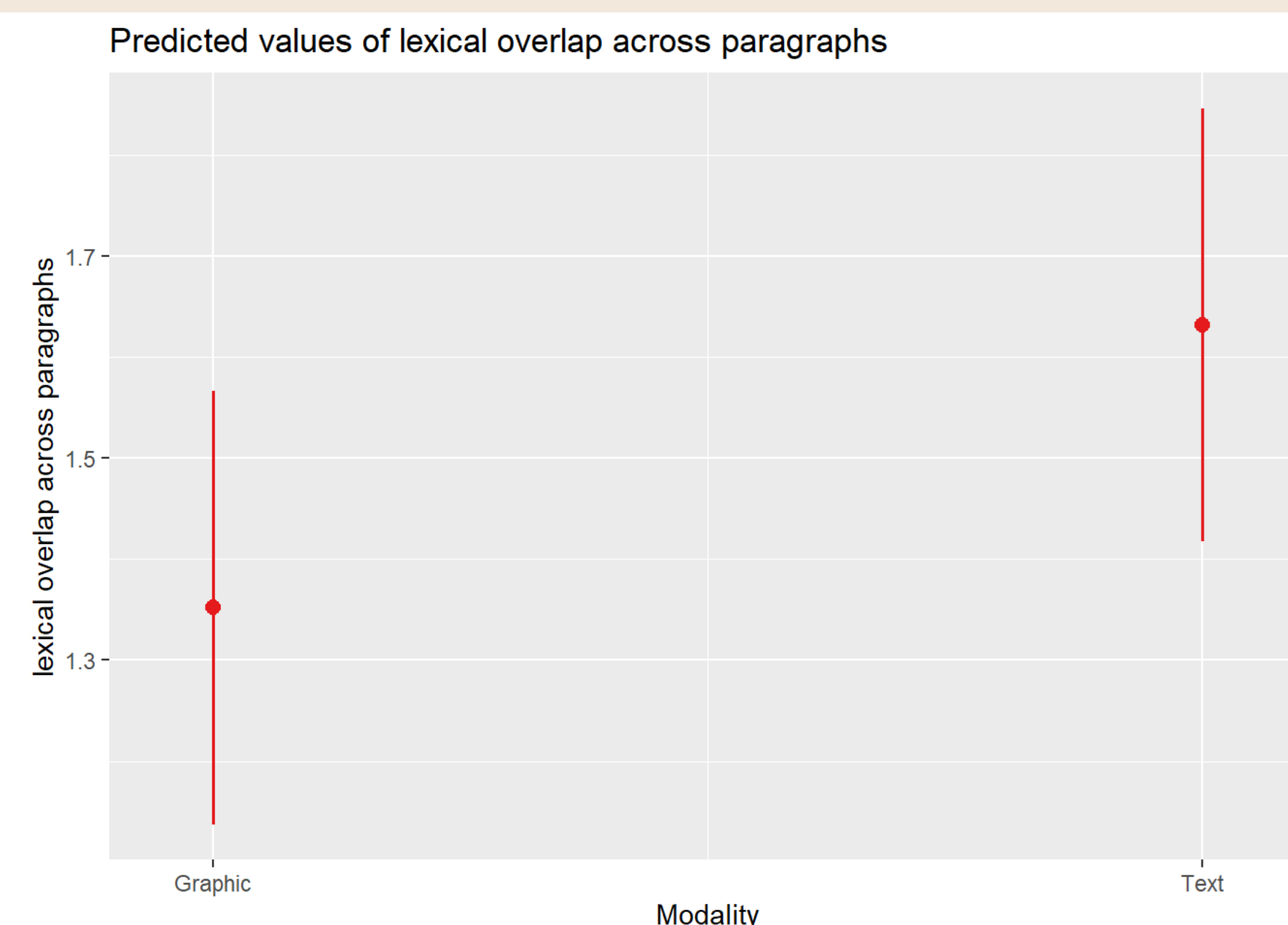
- ▶ The affordances of media have implications on how coherences is achieved.
- ▶ Media support different aspects of comprehension
- ▶ No one media is superior over the other
- ▶ This has implications for using visual media in literacy instruction

## Future Directions

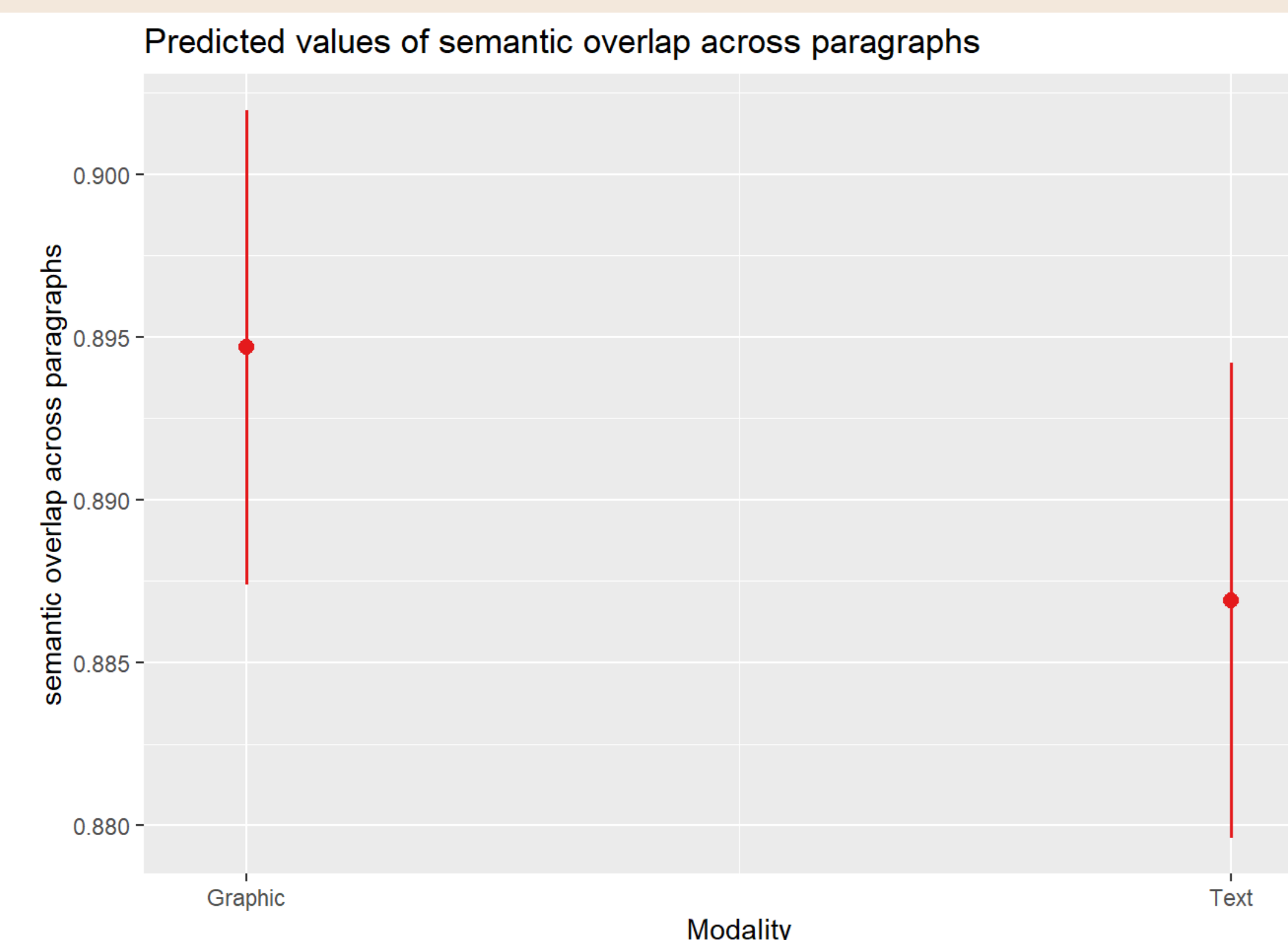
- ▶ Exploring cohesion at a more fine grained level.
- ▶ Exploring relationship with measures of comprehension.
- ▶ Exploring the extent individual differences in reading and viewing skills moderate the relationship between the cohesiveness of responses and comprehension.
- ▶ Develop a theoretical account that can explain the impact of media on comprehension.

## Results

### Content Word Overlap



### Semantic Overlap



## References

Allen, L. K., Jacovina, M. E., & McNamara, D. S. (2016). Cohesive features of deep text comprehension processes. In J. Trueswell, A. Papafragou, D. Grodner, & D. Mirman (Eds.), *Proceedings of the 38th Annual Meeting of the Cognitive Science Society in Philadelphia, PA*, (pp. 2681-2686). Austin, TX: Cognitive Science Society.

Trabasso, T., & Magliano, J. P. (1996). Conscious understanding during comprehension. *Discourse Processes*, 21(3), 255–287. <https://doi.org/10.1080/01638539609544959>