

Abstract

The main subject of this dissertation is the analysis of the relationship between time perspective¹ and susceptibility to suggestion. Three studies were conducted, each consisting of two phases: an experimental phase and a questionnaire phase. The aim was to examine differences in the magnitude of the misinformation effect as a function of (1) time attitudes, (2) the presence of an explicit retrospective warning, and (3) the age of the participant. In the first study, participants ($N = 200$) received information containing misleading elements, in accordance with the established experimental procedure (experimental group) or didn't information containing misleading elements (control group), and then completed a Zimbardo Time Perspective Inventory (ZTPI) measuring the degree of endorsement of each time perspective. In the second study, which involved adults (aged 30-50) ($N = 200$), an explicit retrospective warning was additionally introduced in order to examine the possibility of reducing the misinformation effect. The third study ($N = 400$) additionally controlled for participants' age to assess differences between younger adults (aged 18-20) and older adults (aged 60-70). Across all three studies, the misinformation effect was replicated. The results confirmed the dissertation's main hypothesis, demonstrating that time attitudes modify the magnitude of the misinformation effect. Individuals with a higher future time perspective showed lower susceptibility to misinformation and higher response accuracy compared to those with a weaker future time perspective. Inverse relationships were observed for the present hedonistic time perspective: individuals with a stronger present hedonistic time attitudes lower response accuracy and provided more responses consistent with misinformation than those with lower levels of this time perspective. It was also demonstrated that age significantly was related the strength of the misinformation effect. Younger adults were less susceptible to suggestions than older adults. Moreover, an explicit retrospective warning regarding potential discrepancies effectively reduced the misinformation effect - but only among younger adults and adults. Exploratory analysis further revealed that a past negative time perspective and a balanced time perspective was associated with increased response accuracy among older adults. The present-hedonistic time perspective moderated the efficacy of the retrospective warning, with greater reduction of the misinformation effect observed among individuals with a lower level of this time perspective. The collected data also enabled the examination of developmental changes in time perspectives across the life span. It was found that the past negative, present hedonistic, and future time perspectives declined with age. This dissertation also outlines possible directions for future research, as well as the theoretical and practical implications of the findings.

¹Based on the theory of Zimbardo and Boyd (1999) temporal attitude and time perspective will be used interchangeably for the purposes of this paper.