

DOCUMENTATION PAGE

Form Approved
GAS No. 0704-0188

AD-A268 150



This document is average 1 hour per volume, including the time for reviewing instructions, searching existing data sources, gathering and reviewing the collection of information, sending comments regarding this burden estimate or any other aspect of this collection of information, to Washington Headquarters Services, Directorate for Information Operations and Reports, 1215 Jefferson Avenue, Washington Headquarters Services, Directorate for Information Operations and Reports, 1215 Jefferson Avenue, Washington, DC 20540.

2. REPORT DATE
7 Jul 93

3. REPORT TYPE AND DATES COVERED
ANNUAL/ 1 Jun 92 - 31 May 93

4. TITLE AND SUBTITLE
PROCESSES INVOLVED IN THE INTEGRATION OF PICTURES AND DISCOURSE

5. FUNDING NUMBERS
F49620-92-J-0310
PE 61103D
PR 3484
TA S4

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8. PERFORMING ORGANIZATION REPORT NUMBER
AEOSR-TR-93-0615

9. SPONSORING/MONITORING AGENCY NAME(S) AND ADDRESS(ES)
AFOSR/NL
110 Duncan Avenue, Suite B115
Bolling AFB DC 20332-0001
Dr Tangney

10. SPONSORING/MONITORING AGENCY REPORT NUMBER

11. SUPPLEMENTARY NOTES

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AUG 18 1993
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12a. DISTRIBUTION/AVAILABILITY STATEMENT
Approved for public release;
distribution unlimited

12b. DISTRIBUTION CODE

13. ABSTRACT (Maximum 200 words)

During the period 7/92 to 6/93 Peter Kruley conducted experiments studying the comprehension of illustrated texts; he took a leading role in designing the experiments, writing and debugging computer programs used in the collection of data, collecting actual subject data, and analyzing the data. In two experiments conducted from June to November 1992, subjects read scientific texts, either with or without illustrations, while simultaneously performing tasks that stressed working memory. The goal of the experiments was to investigate the contribution of spatial and non-spatial working memory to the comprehension of texts; the results showed that performance of a concurrent spatial task was impaired when subjects read illustrated texts, whereas performance of a non-spatial task was not so impaired. Thus evidence was found for on-line use of the visuo-spatial sketchpad (Baddeley, 1986) during comprehension of illustrated texts.

14. SUBJECT TERMS

15. NUMBER OF PAGES

16. PRICE CODE

17. SECURITY CLASSIFICATION OF REPORT
(U)

18. SECURITY CLASSIFICATION OF THIS PAGE
(U)

19. SECURITY CLASSIFICATION OF ABSTRACT
(U)

20. LIMITATION OF ABSTRACT
UNLIMITED

93-19127



