Evidence that accent is a dedicated dimension of social categorization, not a byproduct of coalitional categorization.

1. Statement Stimuli

1) Hey, it’s good to meet you! We heard you’d be on the same bus as us and we were looking forward to meeting you. We just finished up a long stay in the backcountry of Kanawa County building houses for poor folks. How about you?

2) We were actually down that way a few months ago. The farmers were having a lot of trouble with their crops. We took vitamins, some canned goods, seeds, and helped with planting. The last few weeks, though, we were down at the other end of the state. They’re at the foot of the mountains down there and were hit with a ton of rain.

3) Yeah, we built a few barns down there a few months ago. There was a ton of flooding. The river rose twelve feet over its banks and carried a few barns and animals away. We almost lost one of our trucks. Did you guys see all the water damage?

4) Well, we saw what was left over from it. It was crazy. We had to move thousands of pounds of driftwood and dirt before doing anything. It sucked. It really doesn’t help to have your fields buried and your crops washed away when your kids are already hungry.

5) I’ll bet. The houses were a wreck too. Holes in walls, collapsing roofs, everything. We had to do some massive door-to-door recruitment: we tried to get every able-bodied person in the area to help, even people miles away, most without phones. Everyone was really cooperative. It’s cool that you guys got down there. So what do you usually do when you get to a new place?

6) First we give out vitamins and food and then figure out priorities. Then we check and fix the water supply, we do soil and groundwater analysis. We also have some pretty cool new computer-based technology for finding nutritional problems and figuring out which crops would be best for both the soil and the people. So pretty much we start with the simple stuff first and then hit the longer-term projects as hard as we can.

7) So how do you guys pick where you’re going to go? Our projects get planned by our office. But from that point on we’re pretty much left on our own to coordinate equipment and materials. Then we build or repair a house or a couple houses within a few weeks or even days.
8) We’re as much scouts as we are the cavalry. Usually the police and government agencies in the area have a pretty good idea about the condition of most settlements, even in really rural areas. But in the course of being out in there we sometimes come across tiny little places completely off anyone’s map. It’s kind of creepy for us sometimes. These are usually the places where people are literally starving, especially older people.

9) Wow. We don’t really come across anything like that. Its crazy to think there’s actually unexplored civilization in this country. Our problem is getting done what we need to do once we get somewhere. We all get pretty frustrated with each other, but we really depend on and trust each other, we have to. Building or repairing a whole house is tough and dangerous, especially with a deadline. Jason here broke his thumb handling some old planks, and we’ve almost all fallen through old floors or gotten smacked on the head.

10) Yeah, we have to make sure no one runs off with our food, especially the black bears! It’s also dangerous for kids to get overdoses of vitamins, so we have to watch them. Sometimes we also have trouble with the weather. We have a lot of equipment that can’t get wet. We have tents and everything, but we usually have to use big temporary shelters for us and our equipment.

11) We’ve all been through carpentry school, or have been subcontractors, or have worked construction. You guys have any special training? You must. We have a skill-based requirements and a long training program. We also ask for a pretty big time commitment.

12) Some of us are nutritionists, some trained in agriculture. Some of us are specifically trained on the computer programs and the instruments for measuring soil quality and nutrition levels. We’ve all had to have some minimal level of training. We work together on the big general projects, and then based on our backgrounds and experience we also each specialize.

13) Sounds impressive. Your work sounds a lot like ours, using your muscles as much as your brains. We’ve been working together for over a year. Like a well oiled machine by now. Built a house in less than a day once. We did everything: the electrical, the plumbing, the siding, and the roof. We were throwing boards around all day.

14) That’s incredible! You all got that done all in one day? We’re lucky to get everything set up in a day. Though I suppose what we’re trying to do is a bit different. We have to do a lot of teaching, a lot of talking to people. Find out what they’ve been eating, where they’ve been planting, what health problems they’ve been having. It makes it hard because you have to find out so much about a place before you can do any long-term help.

15) Well we do have to do a lot of planning. We have very specific plans before we go anywhere. That planning is long and tedious, and can take weeks if not months. I promise it's not easy. We have to go over what we’re going to build, make blueprints, order supplies, and even worry about things like road conditions.
16) I’ll bet. We’ve gotten stuck on lots of backcountry roads. We once almost flipped a car down a ravine. It was full of our computer equipment, vitamins, and us. We were lucky.

17) We usually drive big trucks full of really heavy lumber, roofing tiles, and tools. We were constantly getting stuck until we got equipment for getting unstuck. You guys should really look into getting some winches.

18) That’s a good idea. So who pays for all that stuff? Raising money is something we’re always doing. It’s tough because the people we help aren’t the people who fund us. The supplements and food add up pretty quickly. We sometimes get local agencies to contribute by explaining that we’re saving lives and money in the long run.

19) That’s true. I’m sure our work pays for itself. We’re changing the daily lives of these people, which can be pretty bad in a lot of ways. No indoor plumbing or anything. To answer your question, we have lots of our own tools and we can usually get a cheap mortgage for the family we’re helping if everything’s not covered by donations.

20) So it sounds like you do a lot of your own fundraising, too. We also save a lot of money by recruiting and teaching the local people. But of course we also have to handle a lot of things ourselves. They identify who’s pregnant, who’s hungry, whose crop failed, and do a lot of the distribution. But it takes training to spot nutritional deficiencies. And to know the combinations of vitamins that pregnant women, nursing mothers, and children need.

21) Yeah, each homeowner is supposed to put some sweat equity in. Build part of it themselves. Even though they don’t always have a lot of building experience they’re really happy to help. It’s a lot of fun. It’s great to see such a change in a place. There’s such a difference between when you show up and when you leave.

22) Tell me about it. People can barely buy enough food for their kids. They get really desperate. Some of the families we visited had sold just about everything they owned.

23) I’m sure the kids loved having you guys around. They always find it’s such a treat to meet new people. Sometimes we help them build little birdhouses and projects like that.

24) Yeah, sometimes we make little gardens. The kids take so much pride in the plots we make for them. The kids, and for the most part, all the people that we come across are really hard working, friendly, and thankful. It makes all our hard work and long days worthwhile.