Processing Complex Sentences: A Cross-linguistic Study

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The Competition Model is an interactive-activation framework for the study of sentence processing that is designed to handle quantitative as well as qualitative variations in performance across natural languages. Previous studies within this framework have shown that adult listeners base their interpretation of simple sentences on the most valid and reliable cues in their language (e.g. more use of word order in English and more use of subject–verb agreement in Italian). Critics have argued that such effects may reflect heuristics that are only applied to simple sentences. The present study shows that these cross-linguistic differences are maintained when participants are asked to interpret complex sentences with an embedded relative clause. A comparison of "off-line" (untimed) and "on-line" (timed) versions of the same experiments shows that these effects hold up under time pressure. The on-line versions also provide new information about cross-linguistic differences in timing and demands on processing. In particular, the processing costs associated with centre embedding and non-canonical order are greater in English, which may be the price that English listeners have to pay for heavy reliance on word order information.

INTRODUCTION

The Competition Model is an interactive-activation framework for the study of sentence processing that is designed to handle quantitative as well as qualitative variations in performance across natural languages

Cross Linguistic Study Of Sentence Processing

François Boller

Cross Linguistic Study Of Sentence Processing:

The Development of Language Processing Strategies Reiko Mazuka,2014-05-12 Ever since the notion of explanatory adequacy was promoted by Chomsky in his 1965 Aspects linguists and psycholinguists have been in pursuit of a psychologically valid theory of grammar To be explanatorily adequate a theory of grammar can not only describe the general characteristics of a language but can also account for the underlying psychological processes of acquiring and processing that language To be considered psychologically valid a grammar must be learnable by ordinary children the problem of acquisition and must generate sentences that are parsable by ordinary people the problem of processing Ultimately the fields of language acquisition and processing are concerned with the same goal to build a theory that accounts for grammar as it is acquired by children accessed in comprehension and production of speech and represented within the human mind Unfortunately these two fields developed independently and have rarely been well informed about each other s concerns Both have experienced past difficulties as a result Recently new models have been developed with full consideration to cross linguistic diversity Gone are many of the basic assumptions of conventional models and in their place a variety of innovative and more flexible assumptions have emerged However in their attempt to address cross linguistic issues these processing models have yet to fully address the developmental challenge How can a child without a stable grammar process language and still manage to acquire new grammar This book attempts to develop a model of language processing that addresses both cross linguistic and developmental challenges It proposes to link the setting of a basic configurational parameter during language acquisition to the different organization of processing strategies in left and right branching languages Based primarily on Mazuka s doctoral dissertation this volume incorporates various responses to the original proposal as well as the author s responses to the comments *Cognition and Sentence Production* S.N. Sridhar,2012-12-06 The developments in linguistic theory over the last three decades have given us a better understanding of the formal properties of language However as the truism goes language does not exist in a vacuum It in teracts with a cognitive system that involves much more than language and functions as the primary instrument of human communication A theory of language must therefore be based on an integration of its for mal properties with its cognitive and communicative dimensions The present work is offered as the modest contribution to this research paradigm This book is a revised and slightly enlarged version of my doctoral thesis submitted to the University of Illinois at Urbana Champaign In writing the original version I had the privilege of working with Professor Charles E Osgood who is widely recognized as the founder and one of the leading figures of modern psycholinguistics I have benefited from ex tensive and stimulating discussions with him not only on this topic but in the development of his theory of language performance in general see his Lectures on Language Performance 1980 in this series However the re sponsibility for the particular formulations of the theory hypotheses in terpretations and conclusions found in this work which have been in fluenced no doubt by my training as a linguist rather than as a psychologist are my

own   Cross-Linguistic Perspectives on Language Processing M. de Vincenzi,V. Lombardo,2001-11-30 The cross linguistic aspect of language processing is becoming a central question in psycholinguistic research if the goal of psycholinguists is to give a model of the human sentence processor and not a language sentence processor a test of its cross linguistic validity is essential The chapters address truly fundamental issues about the representational primitives of the parsing system and the motivations for the essential characteristics of the parser The volume also discusses important methodological issues in cross linguistic research such as the choices of linguistic material and experimental procedures It also shows how cross linguistic research can be pursued in either a monolingual or multilingual approach This volume contains contributions from experimental and theoretical psycholinguists and computational researchers Audience The book is recommended reading for advanced undergraduates and graduate students in psycholinguistics linguistics and computational linguisitics as well as practising researchers in the same fields   *Cross-linguistic Variation in Sentence Processing* Despoina Papadopoulou,2006-08-27 The central question that I will pursue in this study concerns the universality of the human sentence processing mechanism It will be explored whether there are cross linguistic differences in parsing by p senting psycholinguistic evidence from Greek Empirical data collected from both native speakers and second language learners of Greek will be used to assess various parsing models and to investigate parsing mechanisms employed in Greek The results from the L2 learners will be additionally used to shed light on the nature of sentence processing in a second language Moreover a supplementary objective of this study is to provide insights into the question of whether discourse biases guide initial parsing choices The goal of any theory of sentence processing is to determine how people arrive at the desired interpretation of a given sentence attem ing thus to investigate the very nature of the human language processor Sentence processing is a rapid and automatic process one which is closely linked in time to the input Garrett 1990 136 Pickering 1999 This means that sentence processing proceeds in an incremental fashion once each word is encountered it is integrated to the sentence analysis Sentence processing necessarily involves a syntactic analysis of the sentence usually referred to as parsing which allows the reader or listener to identify the syntactic role of words within each sentence and an analysis which involves the use of semantic and pragmatic information to arrive at a plausible interpretation   **Sentence Processing: A Crosslinguistic Perspective** Dieter Hillert,1998-07-13 The innovative element of this volume is its overview of the fundamental psycholinguistic topics involved in sentence processing While most psycholinguistic studies focus on a single language and induce a general model of universal sentence processing this volume proposes a cross linguistic approach It contains two distinct features first embraced in the 18th century by brothers Freiherr Wilhelm von Humboldt and Alexander von Humboldt First it offers a linguistic theory that characterizes universal cognitive features of the human language processor or the mind and its biological source independent of a single language structure Second it contains a language theory which considers the diversity of linguistic structures and provides a powerful theory of language processing

Contributors cover a wide range of topics including word recognition fixed expressions grammatical constraints empty categories and parsing Their research involves analyses of 12 languages This book provides an overview of central psycholinguistic topics in sentence processing and combines deductive and inductive methods in fashioning an innovative approach The contributors address word recognition fixed expressions grammatical constraints empty categories and parsing Its original papers form a coherent presentation *The Crosslinguistic Study of Sentence Processing* Brian MacWhinney,Elizabeth Bates,1990-01-26 *Comparative Perspectives on Language Acquisition* Marzena Watorek,Sandra Benazzo,Maya Hickmann,2012-01-09 This volume aims to provide a broad view of second language acquisition within a comparative perspective that addresses results concerning adult and child learners across a variety of source and target languages It brings together contributions at the forefront of language acquisition research that consider a wide range of open questions What are the precise mechanisms underlying acquisition How can we characterize learners initial state and predict their degree of final achievement What role do specific typological properties of source and target languages play How does fossilization occur How does the relative complexity of cognitive systems in adult and child learners affect acquisition Does language learning influence cognitive organization Can language learning shed light on our general understanding of human language and language processing *Principle-based Sentence Processing* Matthew W. Crocker,University of Edinburgh. Human Communication Research Centre,1990 *Reading Acquisition of Chinese as a Second/Foreign Language, Volume II* Linjun Zhang,Zaizhu Han,Yang Zhang,2023-10-26 **Routledge Handbook of Arabic Second Language Acquisition** Mohammad Alhaway,2018-05-04 The Routledge Handbook of Arabic Second Language Acquisition introduces major current approaches in Arabic second language acquisition SLA research and offers empirical findings on crucial aspects and issues to do with the learning of Arabic as a foreign language and Arabic SLA It brings together leading academics in the field to synthesize existing research and develops a new framework for analyzing important topics within Arabic SLA This handbook will be suitable as a reference work for advanced undergraduate and postgraduate students and scholars actively researching in this area and is primarily relevant to sister disciplines within teacher training and Arabic applied linguistics The themes and findings should however also be attractive to other areas of study including theoretical linguistics psycholinguistics cognition and cognitive psychology **Processing Across Languages** Shelia Kennison,2018-02-28 The Research Topic aims to highlight research on the processing of words sentences and discourses across languages Articles representing processing in a wide variety of human languages will be featured Efforts will be made to have articles representing as many language families as possible The methodology used to investigate language processing is open Manuscripts may report studies involving monolinguals or individuals knowing more than one language Research addressing the extent to which all human languages are processed similarly are welcomed as are studies investigating the extent to which the different types of linguistic knowledge are stored differently in memory *A*

Cross-linguistic Study of Second Language Acquisition in Kindergarten Children with Special Reference to Sentence Comprehension Strategies Gabriele Elisabeth Von Lingen,1982 **Phonological Structure and Language Processing** Takashi Otake,Anne Cutler,2011-07-22 No detailed description available for Phonological Structure and Language Processing Brain-Behaviour Interfaces in Linguistic Communication Yury Y. Shtyrov,Andriy Myachykov,Beatriz Martín-Luengo,Olga V. Shcherbakova,2020-12-02 This eBook is a collection of articles from a Frontiers Research Topic Frontiers Research Topics are very popular trademarks of the Frontiers Journals Series they are collections of at least ten articles all centered on a particular subject With their unique mix of varied contributions from Original Research to Review Articles Frontiers Research Topics unify the most influential researchers the latest key findings and historical advances in a hot research area Find out more on how to host your own Frontiers Research Topic or contribute to one as an author by contacting the Frontiers Editorial Office frontiersin org about contact **Input Processing and Grammar Instruction in Second Language Acquisition** Bill VanPatten,1996 This book provides an alternative to the grammar debate in second language acquisition theory and teaching Accepting that language acquisition is at least partially input dependent the author asks how grammatical form is processed in the input by second language learners and is it possible to assist this in ways that help the learner to create richer grammatical intake He answers these questions and explains why traditional paradigms are not psycholinguistically motivated Drawing on research from both first and second language acquisition he outlines a model for input processing in second language acquisition that helps to account for how learners construct grammatical systems He then uses this model to motivate processing instruction a type of grammar instruction in which learners are engaged in making form meaning connections during particular input activities Bilingual Sentence Processing Roberto R. Heredia,J. Altarriba,2002-07-25 This volume provides an overview of the literature on bilingual sentence processing from a psycholinguistic and linguistic perspective Research focuses on both the visual and spoken modalities including specific areas ofresearch interest including an integrated review of methods and the utility of those methods which allows readers to have the appropriate background and context for the chapters that follow **Handbook of Neuropsychology** François Boller,1988 Hardbound Volume 7 complements Volume 6 and focusses on language memory attention mood and noncognitive aspects of behavior Additional chapters deal with academic disorders dyslexia and dyscalculia and with epilepsy autism and childhood psychosis The book will keep all scientists working in the field of neuropsychology abreast of recent developments and points to future paths to be explored in this rapidly expanding area **The Quarterly Journal of Experimental Psychology** ,2002 汉语语法, 类型与认知 邓思颖,Hilary Chappell,Redouane Djamouri,Thekla Wiebusch,2013 The Proceedings of the … Annual Child Language Research Forum ,1996

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