EXPERIMENT 1: 1-shot interpretation

STIMULI

Question: Why are gaps & RPs interpreted differently?

- RPs may be ordinary pronouns (i.e., not voiced gaps).[1,5]
- If so, RPs should be interpreted like ordinary pronouns.
- Are they?

Stimuli 1 item set

- GAP
- RP

Method

Results

N=300 Mechanical Turkers
1 item set

Non-island: RPs decrease TARGET interpretations (p < 0.05)
RPs increase LOCAL interpretations (p < 0.05)

EXPERIMENT 2: Self-paced reading

Reading time results

Gap, Non-island: Faster reading times after RPs vs. gaps (p < 0.05)
Gap, Adjunct island: RPs increase LOCAL interpretations (p < 0.05)
Islands decrease TARGET interpretations (p < 0.05)

Comprehension Question Results

RP, Wh- island: Islands decrease RPs increase LOCAL interpretations (p < 0.05)
RP, Non-island: Islands decrease RPs increase LOCAL interpretations (p < 0.05)
RP, Adjunct island: Islands decrease RPs increase LOCAL interpretations (p < 0.05)

RESULTS

RP, Wh- island: Islands decrease RPs increase LOCAL interpretations (p < 0.05)
RP, Wh- island: Islands decrease RPs increase LOCAL interpretations (p < 0.05)
RP, Adjunct island: Islands decrease RPs increase LOCAL interpretations (p < 0.05)

Stimuli

- It was Mr. Bear that I asked Mr. Dog why Miss Duckie reported him to the boss.
- It was Mr. Bear that I asked Mr. Dog why Miss Duckie reported him to the boss.
- It was Mr. Bear that I asked Mr. Dog why Miss Duckie reported him to the boss.

Method

Results

N=150 MTers
1 item set

- RPs are not interpreted like gaps OR ordinary pronouns.

DISCUSSION

Resumptive pronouns hinder comprehension

- RPs result in more non-target interpretations offline and chance interpretation online.
- RPs encourage locally coherent—but globally infelicitous—parses.
- True even in islands, where RPs are more commonly heard.

REFERENCES


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ADDITIONAL READING

- Asudeh 2004
- Alexopoulou & Keller 2007
- Keffala & Goodall 2012
- Hofmeister & Norcliffe 2013
- Morgan & Wagers submitted
- Polinsky et al. 2012
- Prince 1990
- Ross 1967