Psychology of Language

Essays

Choose one of the questions below and write an essay in English that is between 1500 and 2000 words (without references, hard limit) that answers the question. Each question has a reading list. But you need not only use these studies. It is recommended to find one's own sources.

Questions

1) Acquisition
   - Can infants learn syntactic categories from the statistics of their distribution?

2) Production:
   - How far in advance are speakers planning their utterances?

3) Comprehension
   - In the case of scalar implicatures, is literal meaning processed first?

Reading lists

Readings marked * are good starting points for a general overview of the area

<u>Acquisition</u>

*Erickson, L. C., & Thiessen, E. D. (2015). Statistical learning of language: Theory, validity, and predictions of a statistical learning account of language acquisition. *Developmental Review*, *37*, 66-108.

Gerken, L., Wilson, R., & Lewis, W. (2005). Infants can use distributional cues to form syntactic categories. *Journal of child language*, *32*(2), 249-268.

Gómez, R. L., & Lakusta, L. (2004). A first step in form-based category abstraction by 12-month-old infants. *Developmental science*, *7*(5), 567-580.

Mintz, T. H. (2006). Finding the verbs: Distributional cues to categories available to young learners. *Action meets word: How children learn verbs*, *31*, 63.

Mintz, T. H., Wang, F. H., & Li, J. (2014). Word categorization from distributional information: Frames confer more than the sum of their (Bigram) parts. *Cognitive psychology*, *75*, 1-27.

Shi, R., & Melançon, A. (2010). Syntactic categorization in French-learning infants. *Infancy*, *15*(5), 517-533.

Ying, Y., Yang, X., & Shi, R. (2022). Toddlers use functional morphemes for backward syntactic categorization. *First Language*, 01427237221079137.

Production

Allum, P. H., & Wheeldon, L. R. (2007). Planning scope in spoken sentence production: The role of grammatical units. *Journal of Experimental Psychology: Learning, Memory, and Cognition*, *33*(4), 791.

Bock, K., & Cutting, J. C. (1992). Regulating mental energy: Performance units in language production. *Journal of memory and language*, *31*(1), 99-127.

Ferreira, F., & Swets, B. (2002). How incremental is language production? Evidence from the production of utterances requiring the computation of arithmetic sums. *Journal of Memory and Language*, *46*(1), 57-84.

Schriefers, H., Teruel, E., & Meinshausen, R. M. (1998). Producing simple sentences: Results from picture–word interference experiments. *Journal of Memory and Language*, *39*(4), 609-632.

Wagner, V., Jescheniak, J. D., & Schriefers, H. (2010). On the flexibility of grammatical advance planning during sentence production: Effects of cognitive load on multiple lexical access. *Journal of Experimental Psychology: Learning, Memory, and Cognition*, *36*(2), 423.

*Wheeldon, L. (2013). Producing spoken sentences: The scope of incremental planning. *Cognitive and physical models of speech production, speech perception, and production-perception integration*, 93-114.

Zhao, L. M., Alario, F. X., & Yang, Y. F. (2015). Grammatical planning scope in sentence production: Further evidence for the functional phrase hypothesis. *Applied Psycholinguistics*, *36*(5), 1059-1075.

Comprehension

Breheny, R., Ferguson, H. J., & Katsos, N. (2013). Investigating the timecourse of accessing conversational implicatures during incremental sentence interpretation. Language and Cognitive Processes, 28(4), 443–467.

Degen, J., & Tanenhaus, M. K. (2015). Processing scalar implicature: A constraint-based approach. *Cognitive science*, *39*(4), 667-710.

*Grice, H. P. (1975). Logic and conversation. In *Speech acts* (pp. 41-58). Brill.

Grodner, D. J., Klein, N. M., Carbary, K. M., & Tanenhaus, M. K. (2010). "Some," and possibly all, scalar inferences are not delayed: Evidence for immediate pragmatic enrichment. *Cognition*, *116*(1), 42-55.

Huang, Y. T., & Snedeker, J. (2009). Online interpretation of scalar quantifiers: Insight into the semantics–pragmatics interface. *Cognitive psychology*, *58*(3), 376-415.

Huang, Y. T., & Snedeker, J. (2018). Some inferences still take time: Prosody, predictability, and the speed of scalar implicatures. Cognitive Psychology, 102, 105–126.

Sun, C., & Breheny, R. (2020). Another look at the online processing of scalar inferences: An investigation of conflicting findings from visual-world eye-tracking studies. *Language, Cognition and Neuroscience*, *35*(8), 949-979.