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# Does informativity modulate linearization preferences in reference production?

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## Abstract

During referential communication, speaker's choices regarding the syntactic encoding of their expressions can modulate the linear ordering of the properties necessary to identify the referent. In two experiments, we investigated whether the encoding of pre-/post-nominal modifications was influenced by the *informativity* of properties in a visual context (e.g., "the crying rabbit" versus "rabbit that's crying"). While half of the participants used a fixed strategy of adopting pre-nominal modifications, informativity did significantly influence linearization choices for the remaining participants, consistent with a maximal informativity strategy in which more informative words are more likely to be encoded early.

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