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# Processing Scalar Implicatures in the First and Second Language

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## Abstract

Our study investigates the claim that scalar implicature comprehension is unproblematic to L2 speakers relative to L1 speakers. We argue that L2 speakers have difficulties in implicature comprehension but that this observation was hidden by the use of slow-cum-conscious reading strategies that participants employ when they have unlimited time to process the scalar implicature. To test our claim, a truth value judgment task with time constraints was used. Our results revealed that L2 speakers with low proficiency have significant difficulties relative to L1 speakers, but that these difficulties in implicature comprehension are remedied at higher levels of language attainment.

**Keywords:** Scalar implicature, discrepancy, methodology

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