
Scalar diversity and second-language processing: the Pragmatic Transfer Hypothesis

Federica Longo^{*†1}, Bob Van Tiel^{‡2}, Penka Stateva^{§1}, and Greta Mazzaggio^{¶3}

¹Univerza v Novi Gorici – Slovenia

²Radboud University Nijmegen – Netherlands

³Università degli Studi di Firenze – Italy

Abstract

This study investigates the impact of language proficiency on the computation of scalar implicatures (e.g., "some" implying "not all") and compares the *Pragmatic Default Hypothesis* and the *Pragmatic Transfer Hypothesis*. Six scalar terms were studied among native English speakers, native Slovenian speakers, and Slovenian second-language (L2) learners of English. The findings mostly support the Pragmatic Transfer Hypothesis, as the rate of scalar implicatures in the English-L2 group generally aligned with rates in their native language, Slovenian. This suggests that scalar implicature judgments in one's L2 reflect pragmatic patterns in one's first language.

Keywords: Second, Language processing, Scalar implicatures, Scalar diversity

*Speaker

†Corresponding author: federica.longo@ung.si

‡Corresponding author: bob.vantiel@ru.nl

§Corresponding author: penka.stateva@ung.si

¶Corresponding author: greta.mazzaggio@unifi.it