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# Towards a better Rational Speech Act framework for context-aware modeling of metaphor understanding

Gaia Carenini\*<sup>†1</sup>, Luca Bischetti<sup>2</sup>, Walter Schaeken<sup>3</sup>, and Valentina Bambini<sup>‡2</sup>

<sup>1</sup>École Normale Supérieure, Department of Computer Science – Italy

<sup>2</sup>University School for Advanced Studies IUSS, Laboratory of Neurolinguistics and Experimental Pragmatics (NEP) – Italy

<sup>3</sup>KU Leuven, Brain and Cognition – Belgium

## Abstract

Modeling language is a fundamental step for understanding human communication and improving human-computer interaction. The Rational Speech Act (RSA) model provides a flexible framework to pursue this objective by catching pragmatic reasoning. However, state-of-the-art models still have limitations in dealing with context. We present a new RSA framework for metaphor understanding that accounts explicitly for the role of context by emphasizing the mutual shared information between the speaker and the listener in the estimation of the communicative goal. The model is tested extensively against 24 metaphors (with either intrinsic or emergent properties) and its predictions are compared to human data.

**Keywords:** Rational Speech Act, Context, Metaphor processing

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\*Speaker

<sup>†</sup>Corresponding author: [gaia.carenini@ens.psl.eu](mailto:gaia.carenini@ens.psl.eu)

<sup>‡</sup>Corresponding author: [valentina.bambini@iusspavia.it](mailto:valentina.bambini@iusspavia.it)