
The role of standard in the processing of scalar inferences of adjectives: A web-based visual world eye-tracking study

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Abstract

Scalar diversity—variability wrt the likelihood of triggering scalar implicatures (SIs)—has been observed even within the scalar category of adjectives. To account for this, it has been argued that different lexical-semantic properties of gradable adjectives, e.g., the standard of comparison they invoke, affect the availability of pragmatic inferences. The proposed study aims to test whether the type of standard of comparison characteristic of two different gradable adjective classes (relative *vs.* minimum-standard absolute) affects the incremental processing of SIs triggered by these two adjective classes. To this end, we will conduct a web-based Visual World eye-tracking experiment using a referential communication task.

Keywords: scalar implicature, gradable adjectives, visual world eye, tracking

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