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# Generics and conditionals through the lens of experimental pragmatics: a self-paced reading experiment and an eye-tracking experiment in French.

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## Abstract

Making generalisations is at the core of our cognitive equipment and generics are tailored to express them (e.g., *Birds fly*). Pragmaticians underline the importance of pragmatic capacities to properly master generics whereas developmental psychologists claim that generics represent the default mode of making generalisations. Two studies involving reasoning tasks have been run to address this issue: a self-paced reading experiment and an eye-tracking experiment. The results – showing differences in reading time, acceptance rate of conclusions, and in the number of regressions depending on type of reasoning and type of argument – favour the pragmatic perspective.

**Keywords:** conditionals, generics, reasoning, French, reading time, eye, tracking

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