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# Predictability in production and perception of anaphoric references

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## Abstract

Cooperative speakers are expected to make their utterances maximally informative so that listeners have the highest chance of understanding the utterances as intended. In this work, we ask how predictability of the described content (in our case, events) affects the choice of anaphoric references. We show that speakers prefer phonologically overt descriptions, such as definite NPs, when they refer to agents of surprising events. We further demonstrate that this caution is justified by listeners' behavior: they sometimes re-interpret utterances and insert additional phonological material that makes the content more plausible.

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