Priming granularities across domains: evidence from numerals and gradable adjectives

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Abstract

Granularities are argued to be active in the interpretation of scalar expressions in various domains such as numerals, maximum-standard absolute adjectives (MaxAAs), and definite comparatives. They can be conceptualized as the 'resolution' of a scale. While granularities ought to be pragmatically inferred, it remains unexplored whether this inference process is domain-specific or if there exist cross-domain interactions. We investigate cross-domain granularity priming from numerals to adjectival scales, focusing on MaxAAs (e.g., "full"). Through experiments, we find that granularity priming in the numeral domain affects the precision level under which MaxAAs are interpreted, demonstrating cross-domain inferential processes for granularity.

Keywords: granularity, priming, scalar meanings

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