
The comprehension and processing of scalar implicatures under sensory uncertainty

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Abstract

Does sensory uncertainty affect the online comprehension of scalar implicatures? We aim to address this question by conducting an experiment employing a picture-selection task with eye movement recording. By gradually degrading the audio-visual presentation of the test sentences, thereby making multisensory processing more difficult, we will investigate how the comprehension of scalar implicatures (e.g. "a few" → "a few but not all") is reduced compared to unambiguous quantifiers (e.g. "all", "none"). The results will inform us on the core mechanism generating scalar implicatures as well as the origin of their processing cost.

Keywords: scalar implicatures, multisensory processing, uncertainty, eye tracking

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