
Incremental computation of scalar implicatures in the Maze task

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Abstract

We investigate the processing of scalar implicature from ‘some’ to ‘some but not all’ in the Maze task, thought to encourage eager incremental comprehension patterns. In a conceptual replication of Bergen & Grodner (2012), we manipulate context to encourage or discourage an implicature, and investigate reading behavior on the scalar trigger, affirmations of the strengthened meaning, and cancellations, comparing to a control (‘only some’) where the relevant meaning is entailed. We observe typical differences between the behavior of entailment and implicature, but unlike previous work, find no evidence for context sensitivity in implicature calculation in this task.

Keywords: implicature, reading, Maze

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