Not All Pronouns are Resolved Rapidly
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•Rapid order-of-mention effects are robust in adulthood and childhood.

Implicit causality effects also rapid in adults. (Song, Contreras, Yurd & Nippchen, 2011; Konstan & van Berneem, 2009).

References


Experiment 2

Are experiencer-object verb sentences resolved more quickly?

Design

Use passive sentences instead of active.

”D.W. is liked by Dora very much, because she is such a nice girl. Can you point to her?”

Looking at subject

Result: 1) Resolving 1st-mention does not make experiencer-subject verb sentences fast. 2) Experiment-object-verb fast even when resolving to 2nd-mention.

Experiment 3

Implicit Consensuality (Stewart, Pickering & Sanford, 1998)

object(s)-biased: “Because Sally, frightens Mary, she is really gonna….”

subject-biased: “Because Sally, likes Mary, she is really gonna…”

Inference refers to effect not to cause.

Looking at subject

Result: 1) Slow for both verb types. 2) No strong bias for experiencer-object verbs. Seems to be due to tense.

Conclusions

• Pronoun resolution is not always fast.

Remaining Questions

• Under what other conditions is resolution fast?

• Is resolution to NP2 ever fast?

• What distinguishes cases where resolution is fast and slow?

• Frequency of relation/verb class combination?

• Complexity of inference?


References