
Dynamics of memory retrieval in parsing double relative clauses: The interplay of parallelism, animacy, and case markers

Myung Hye Yoo¹, So Young Lee²
Korea University¹, Miami University²
mhyoo@korea.ac.kr, soyoung.lee@miamioh.edu

May 25, 2024
한국언어정보학회 5월 월례발표회



Roadmap

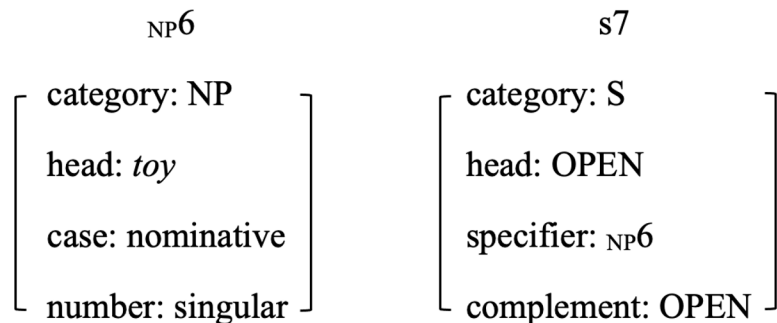
- Processing mechanism
- Structure of double relative clauses (DRCs)
- Main focus:
 - Semantic-syntactic information: Parallelism of grammatical functions
 - Semantic information: Animacy
 - Morphosyntactic information: Case markers
- Results from three self-paced reading tasks
- Discussion

Processing mechanisms: Encoding

- Encoding of representation

e.g., Melissa knew that **the toy** from her uncle in Bogota arrived today.

[encoding]



(Lewis et al., 2006, p. 3)

Processing mechanisms: Retrieval

- Sentence: It was the lawyer that the client interviewed in a small office.

It was the lawyer that **the client** interviewed in a small office.

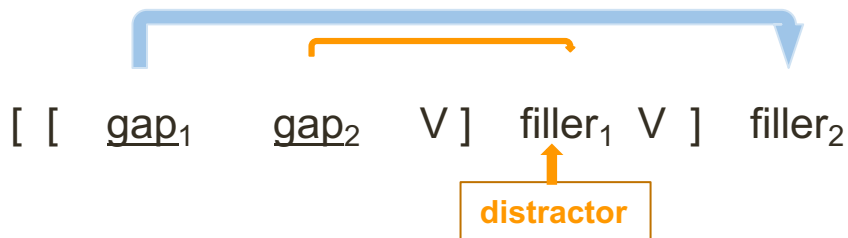
subject
[+NP, +singular, +definite]

distractor
[+NP, +singular, +definite]

- **Complex sentences** cause processing difficulty due to **memory constraints**
(Gibson, 1998. a.o).
 - The parser needs to process **another NP** in the dependency chain, then this requires an additional processing load

Main Research question

- How about a distractor involving the dependency formation?
 - Double relative clauses in Korean



1. **Syntactic information: Parallelism of the grammatical functions between the filler and gap positions**
2. **Semantic information: Animacy**
3. **Morpho-syntactic information: case markers**

Double relative clause (DRCs) in Korean

- Double relative clauses (DRCs) in Korean

[RC1[RC2 ____i ____j coaha-nun] kangaci-ka_j cwuk-un] ai_i

low head noun

high head noun

____i ____j like-ADN dog-NOM_j die-ADN kid_i

‘the kid who the dog which [he] liked died’

(An adnominal marker ‘-(n)un’ is used to modify a noun.)

Parallelism effects

(1)

a. SS condition (subject head noun-subject gap)

e.g., The dog_i [that ____i jumps over the pig] bumps into the lion.

b. SO condition (subject head noun-object gap)

e.g., The lion_i [that the horse bumps into ____i] jumps over the giraffe.

c. OS condition (object head noun- subject gap)

e.g., The pig bumps into the horse_i [that ____i jumps over the giraffe].

d. OO condition (object head noun- object gap)

e.g., The dog stands on the horse_i; that the giraffe jumps over ____i.

c. SRC

d. ORC

(Sheldon, 1974: 275)

- Parallelism effect: Parallel function > Non-parallel function ($d > c$)
- Subject advantage (King & Just, 1991): SRCs advantage over ORCs ($c > d$)

Parallelism effects

- Prenominal relative clauses
 - No overt cue on retrieving the dependent element
 - Double dependencies out of the same clause (co-arguments)
- ➔ Parallelisms of grammatical functions may play a role in processing DRCs

Double relative clause (DRCs) in Japanese

a. Yoyakusita seki-ga kituensekino tonarini-atta kyaku-wa hokanoseki-ni kaesasetta.

reserved seat-nom smoke-area next-was customer-top other-seat-to changed

‘The customer that the seat that (he/she) reserved was next to the smoking section made (them) change to another seat’

b. Yoyakusita kyaku-ga jikan-ni okureta seki-wa hokanokyaku-ni mawasareta.

reserved customer-nom time-to late-was seat-top other-customer was-given

‘The seat that the customer that reserved (it) was late was given to another customer’

a. seat (low) —
customer (high)

object gap —
subject gap

b. customer (low) —
seat
subject gap —
object gap

(Nakamura & Miyamoto, 2013)

- Processing preferences based on the thematic role assignment (a) > (b)
→ Assigning the role of an object before a subject
- Only one syntactic structure

Processing approaches to Korean DRCs

- Various restrictions for DRCs (Yoon, 2016)
 - The grammatical function of the head nouns
→ Processing difficulty of higher head nouns from object gap positions.
 - Interpretation preference based on lower relative clauses
→ Similar to the conclusion of Nakamura & Miyamoto (2013)

Processing approaches to Korean DRCs

- Various restrictions for DRCs (Yoon, 2016)
 - Interpretation preference based on lower relative clauses
 - The distance between gap and filler
 - Shorter dependencies are preferred over longer dependencies
 - [e e salangha-nun] yeca
 love-and woman
 a. **'the woman_j [whom_j e_i loves e_j]' ('the woman whom somebody loves')**
 b. ? 'the woman_i [who_i e_i loves e_j]' ('the woman whom loves somebody')



Double relative clause (DRCs) in Korean

- Double relative clauses (DRCs) in Korean

[RC1[RC2 ____i ____j coaha-nun] kangaci-ka_j cwuk-ur] ai_i

low head noun *high head noun*

____i ____j like-ADN dog-NOM_j die-ADN kid_i

‘the kid who the dog which [he] liked died’

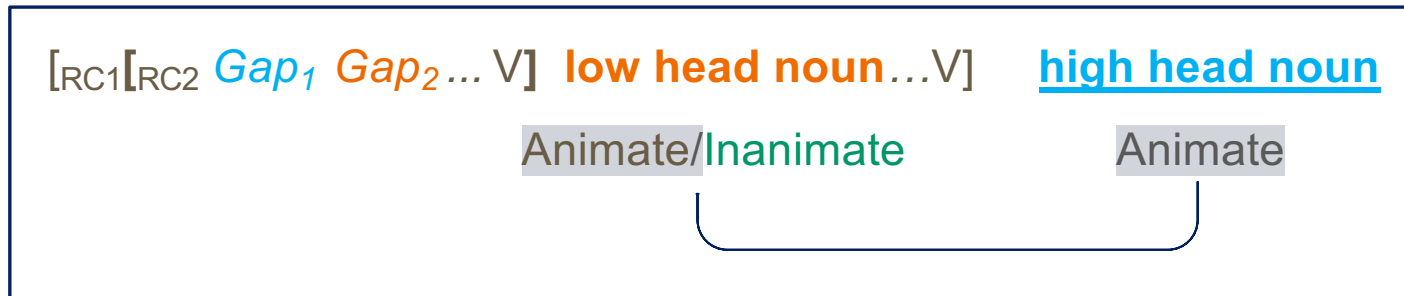
- Pro-drop head-final language: temporary ambiguity is resolved later at the head nouns
→ Delay the postulation of the gap until encountering the head noun (Kwon, 2008)

Three main factors

- **Syntactic-semantic cue: parallelism of grammatical functions**
- **Semantic cue: animacy**
- **Morphosyntactic cue: case marker**

Q2. Parallelism & Animacy

- Animacy

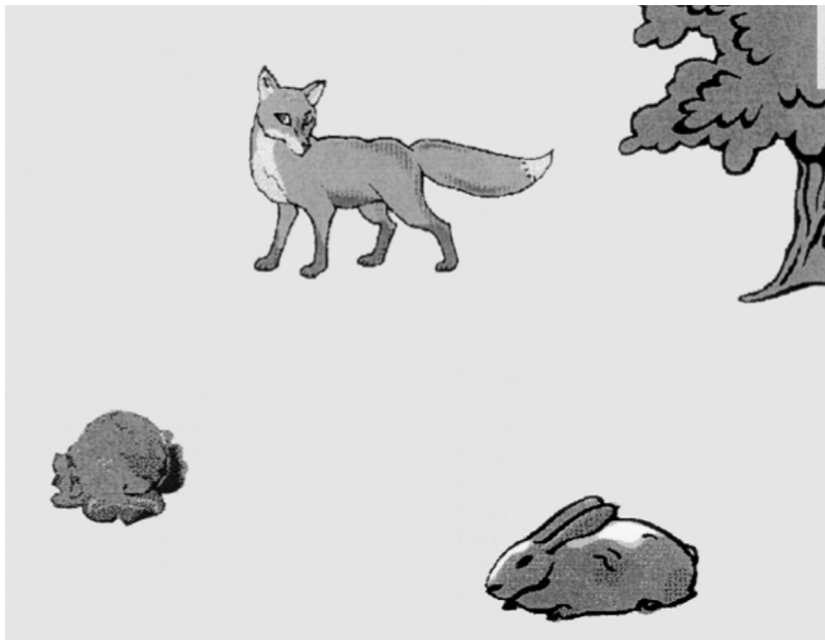


- Syntax-first account: the primacy of syntactic cues over semantic cues
(Clifton et al., 2003; Ferreira & Clifton, 1986; Frazier & Rayner, 1982)
 - Prediction: No different results depending on the animacy of low head nouns
- Simultaneous processing: interactive use of both syntactic and semantic cues
(Kwon et al., 2019; Mak et al., 2002; Mertzen, Dillon, et al., 2021)
 - Prediction: More difficulty when the low head noun is animate

Q3. Role of case markers

- Parsers can predict an upcoming argument to bear a different case

(Kamide et al., 2003; Knoeferle et al., 2005)



- Der Hase frisst gleich den Kohl.
The hare-**nom** eats shortly the cabbage-acc.
“The hare will shortly eat the cabbage.”
- Den Hasen frisst gleich der Fuchs.
The hare-**acc** eats shortly the fox-nom.
“The fox will shortly eat the hare.”

- Predictive processing

- NOM (agent) ... a theme (*cabbage*)
- ACC (theme) ... an agent (*fox*)

(Kamide et al., 2003)

Q3. Role of case markers

- Parsers can predict an upcoming argument to bear a different case
(Kamide et al., 2003; Knoeferle et al., 2005)
- Active use of case information (a, b: slowdown!)
- Selective use of case information based on structure building

a. Low head noun-NOM -- High head noun-NOM

b. Low head noun-ACC -- High head noun-ACC

c. Low head noun-NOM -- High head noun-ACC

d. Low head noun-ACC -- High head noun-NOM

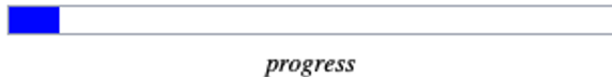
Slowdown!!

Experimental methods

- 2 x 2 design: Parallelism (parallel, non-parallel) x Head nouns (low, high)
- 16 target items + 42 fillers (randomized)
- Self-paced reading tasks (PClbex)

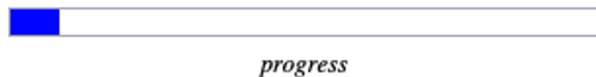
Experimental methods: Procedure

- Non-cumulative moving window display



Experimental methods: Procedure

- Non-cumulative moving window display



성가대 민진이는 _____

Experimental methods: Procedure

- Non-cumulative moving window display

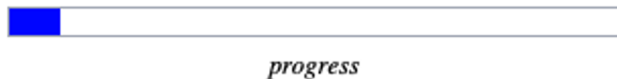


progress

슬기와 주희가

Experimental methods: Procedure

- Non-cumulative moving window display



_____ 민화를 _____

Experimental methods: Procedure

- Non-cumulative moving window display

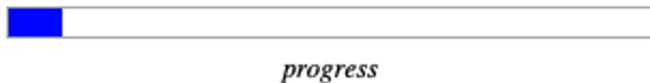


progress

_____ 감상하시게 _____

Experimental methods: Procedure

- Non-cumulative moving window display



전시실로

Experimental methods: Procedure

- Non-cumulative moving window display

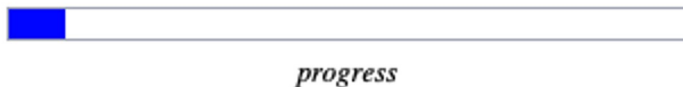


progress

안내했다.

Experimental methods: Procedure

- Non-cumulative moving window display



민진이는 예비당으로 안내했나요?

예 아니오

Experimental methods: Analysis

- Statistics: Linear mixed effect models (*lme4* package in R)
- Outlier removal1: removal of participants below 75% accuracy
- Outlier removal2: Three standard deviation above the mean (less than 2%)
- Regions of interest: High head noun (critical region) – Spillover1 – Spillover2
Low head noun

- Experiment 1: *inanimate* low – *animate* high
- Experiment 2: *animate* low – *animate* high
- Experiment 3: Follow up experiment

Experiment 1

- A self-paced reading task (n=50)
- A sample set of items: critical region = ‘shoes-ACC/NOM (*inanimate*)’, ‘kid-ACC/NOM (*animate*)’

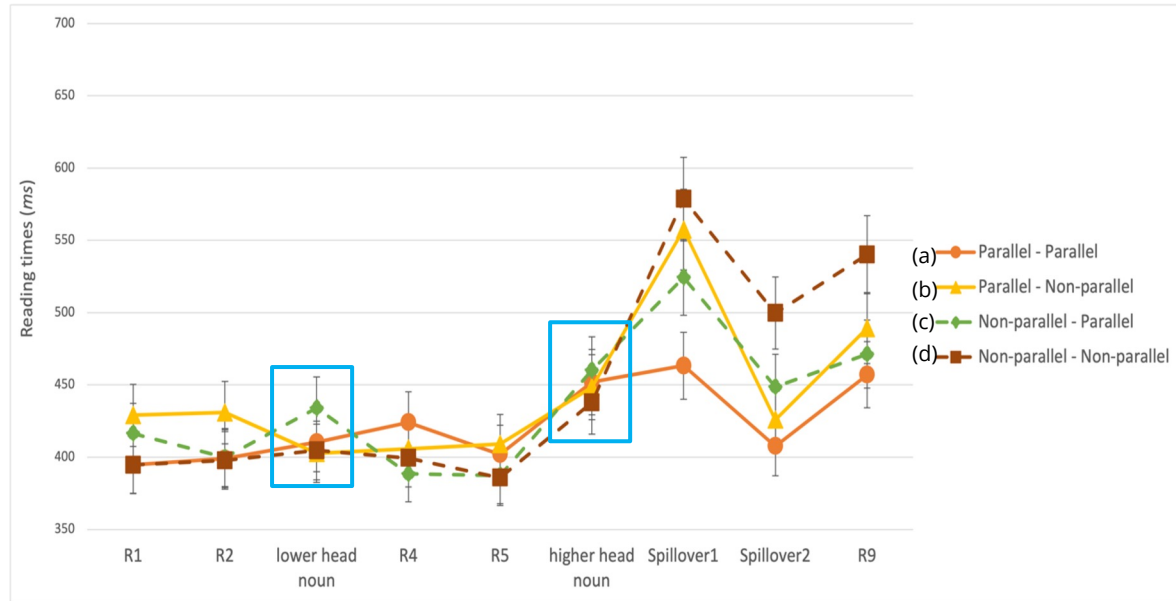
Factors				Examples
Parallelism of the low head noun (object gap)	Parallelism of the high head noun (subject gap)	Case		
(a) Parallel (ACC-object)	Parallel (NOM-subject)	Mismatch	[_{RC1} [_{RC2} __i __j mollyay hwumchi-n] <i>sinpal</i> _j -ul manhi akki-nun] <i>ai</i> _i -ka...	sneakily steal-ADN shoes _j -ACC a lot cherish-ADN kid _i -NOM
(b) Parallel (ACC-object)	Non-parallel (ACC-object)	Match	[_{RC1} [_{RC2} __i __j mollyay hwumchi-n] <i>sinpal</i> _j -ul manhi akki-nun] <i>ai</i> _i -lul...	sneakily steal-ADN shoes _j -ACC a lot cherish-ADN kid _i -ACC
‘the kid _i [who cherisehd the shoes _j [that (the kid) _i sneakily stole __j]]’				
(c) Non-parallel (NOM-subject)	Parallel (NOM-subject)	Match	[_{RC1} [_{RC2} __i __j mollyay hwumchi-n] <i>sinpal</i> _j -i manhi telewu-n] <i>ai</i> _i -ka...	sneakily steal-ADN shoes-NOM very (be) dirty-ADN kid _i -NOM
(d) Non-parallel (NOM-subject)	Non-parallel (ACC-subject)	Mismatch	[_{RC1} [_{RC2} __i __j mollyay hwumchi-n] <i>sinpal</i> _j -i manhi telewu-n] <i>ai</i> _i -lul...	sneakily steal-ADN shoes-NOM very (be) dirty-ADN kid _i -ACC
‘the kid _i [who the shoes _j [that (the kid) _i sneakily stole __j] is dirty]’				

Low head noun

High head noun

Experiment 1: Results

- Measurement: low & high head nouns, and spillover regions

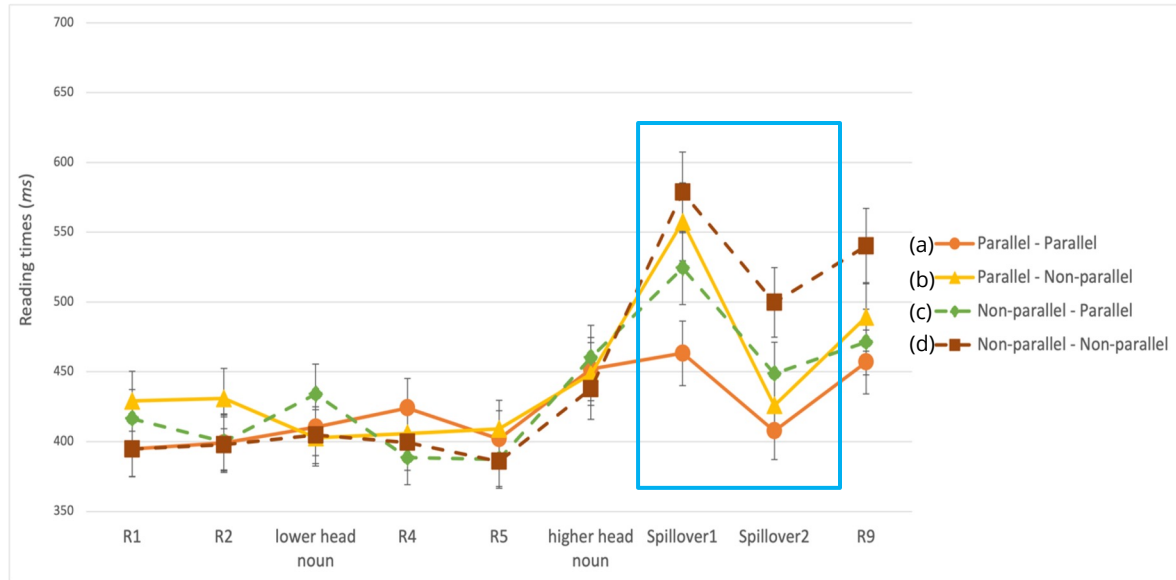


Mean reading time (ms) by region by condition. Error bars indicate 95% Confidence intervals.

- **Low head noun region:**
 - No grammatical-function parallelism effect of a lower head noun
- **High head noun region:**
 - No grammatical-function parallelism effect of both head nouns

Experiment 1: Results

- Measurement: low & high head nouns, and spillover regions



Mean reading time (*ms*) by region by condition.
Error bars indicate 95% Confidence intervals.

- Spillover regions:
 - Spillover 1 region: the grammatical-function parallelism effect of a **high head noun** was observed ($t=-2.5$)
 - Spillover 2 region: the grammatical-function parallelism effect of **both head nouns** was observed (all $ps <.05$)
- No case effect

Experiment 1: Results

Table 3 Summary of statistical analyses by region in Experiment 1⁴

	Regions								
	Critical			Spillover 1			Spillover 2		
	β	SE	<i>t</i>	β	SE	<i>t</i>	β	SE	<i>t</i>
Parallelism effect of a low head noun	1.06	15.77	.06	-42.35	31.98	-1.32	-56.73	15.82	-3.58
Parallelism effect of a high head noun	12.79	15.80	.80	-73.46	29.39	-2.50	-33.79	15.65	-2.15
Parallelism effect of Low x High head nouns	-19.15	33.89	-.56	-40.66	60.02	-.67	-40.66	60.02	-.67
Case mismatch	9.57	16.91	.56	20.33	30.01	.67	-16.49	13.70	-1.20

A fixed effect was considered to reach the significant level ($p=0.05$) if its absolute *t*-value was above 2 (Baayen et al., 2008). Significant coefficients ($|t| > 2$) are in bold.

Experiment 1: Discussion

(1) Low head nouns: No parallelism effects

(2) High head nouns

- No case mismatch effects

- Delayed parallelism effects



- Possibility 1: immediate syntactic encoding → subsequent integration of the dependency (High-Low)

- Possibility 2: simultaneous processes of syntactic encoding and linking the gaps at the high head noun but easy processing costs due to distinctiveness of semantic information (i.e., animacy)

- Experiment 2: **Animate** low head nouns – **Animate** high head nouns

Q: How parsers handle syntactic and semantic cues in real-time processing?

Experiment 2

- A self-paced reading task (n=50)
- A sample set of items: critical region = ‘teacher-ACC/NOM (*animate*)’, ‘graduate-ACC/NOM (*animate*)’

Table 4 A sample set of items for Experiment 2

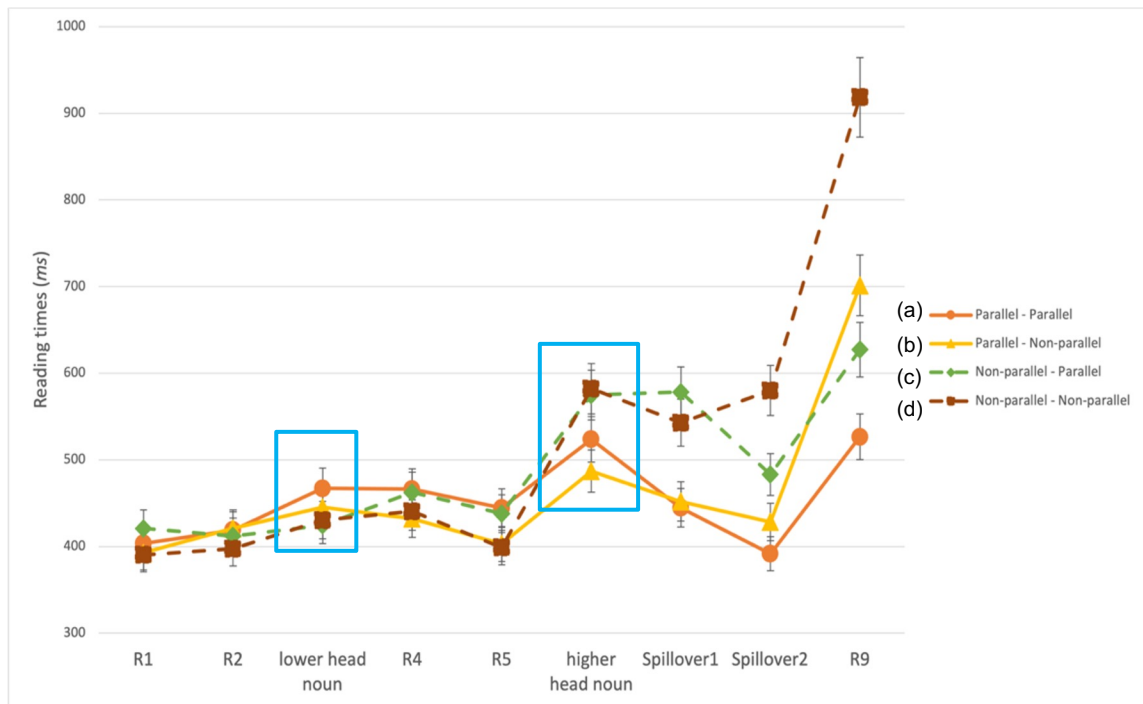
		Factors			
	Parallelism of the low head noun (object gap)	Parallelism of the high head noun (subject gap)	Case	Examples	
(a)	Parallel (object)	Parallel (subject)	Mismatch (ACC-NOM)	[RC1[RC2_i_j manhi conkyengha-te-n] sensayngnim_j-ul choykune_y kuliweha-te-n] colepsayng_i-...	a lot respect-PST-ADN <i>teacher_j-ACC</i> recently miss-PST-ADN <i>graduate_-NOM</i>
(b)	Parallel (object)	Non-parallel (object)	Match (ACC-ACC)	[RC1[RC2_i_j manhi conkyengha-te-n] sensayngnim_j-ul choykune_y kuliweha-te-n] colepsayng_i-...	a lot respect-PST-ADN <i>teacher_j-ACC</i> recently miss-PST-ADN <i>graduate_-ACC</i> ‘the graduate_i [who recently missed the teacher_j [who (the graduate)_i respected __ a lot]]’
(c)	Non-parallel (subject)	Parallel (subject)	Match (NOM-NOM)	[RC1[RC2_i_j manhi conkyengha-te-n] sensayngnim_i choykune_y unthoyha-n] colepsayng_i-...	a lot respect-PST-ADN <i>teacher_j-NOM</i> recently retire-ADN <i>graduate_-NOM</i>
(d)	Non-parallel (subject)	Non-parallel (subject)	Mismatch (NOM-ACC)	[RC1[RC2_i_j manhi conkyengha-te-n] sensayngnim_i choykune_y unthoyha-n] colepsayng_i-...	a lot respect-PST-ADN <i>teacher_j-NOM</i> recently retire-ADN <i>graduate_-ACC</i> ‘the graduate_i [who the teacher_j [who (the graduate)_i respected __ a lot] recently retired]’

Low head noun

High head noun

Experiment 2: Results

- Measurement: low & high head nouns, and spillover regions

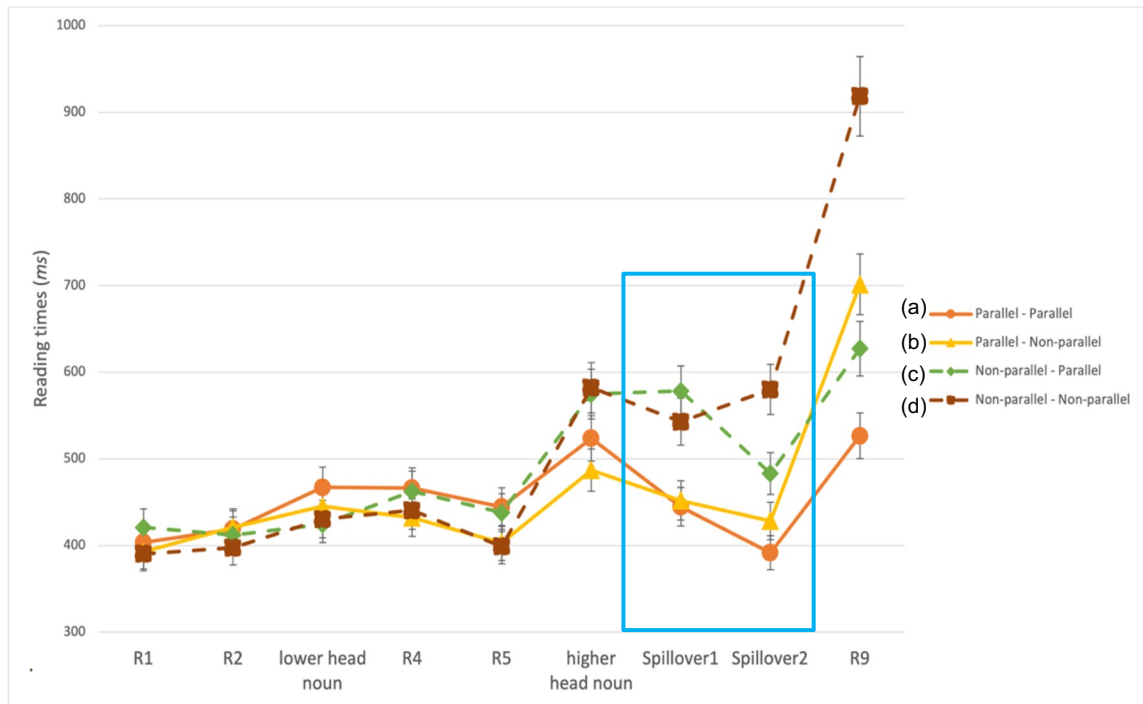


- Low head noun region:**
 - No grammatical-function parallelism effect of a lower head noun
- High head noun region:**
 - Grammatical-function parallelism effect of **low head nouns**

Mean reading time (*ms*) by region by condition. Error bars indicate 95% Confidence intervals.

Experiment 2: Results

- Measurement: low & high head nouns and spillover regions



- Spillover regions:

- Spillover 1 region: the grammatical-function parallelism effect of a **lower head noun** was also observed ($t=-4.8, p < .001$)
- Spillover 2 region: the grammatical-function parallelism effect of **both head nouns** was also observed (all $ps < .05$)

- No case effect

Mean reading time (ms) by region by condition. Error bars indicate 95% Confidence Intervals.

Experiment 2: Results

Table 6 Summary of statistical analyses by region in Experiment 2

	Regions								
	Critical			Spillover 1			Spillover 2		
	β	SE	t	β	SE	t	β	SE	t
Parallelism effect of a low head noun	-93.23	48.17	-1.93	-114.71	34.23	-3.35	-126.59	21.92	-5.77
Parallelism effect of a high head noun	-8.63	35.54	-0.24	7.34	23.30	0.31	-72.21	23.17	-3.11
Parallelism effect of Low x High head nouns	61.36	75.43	0.81	-38.30	43.21	-0.88	68.54	38.43	1.68
Case mismatch	-30.05	42.05	-0.71	17.53	20.85	0.84	-34.36	19.20	-1.68

Marginal or significant coefficients ($|t| > 2$) are in bold.

Experiment 2: Discussion

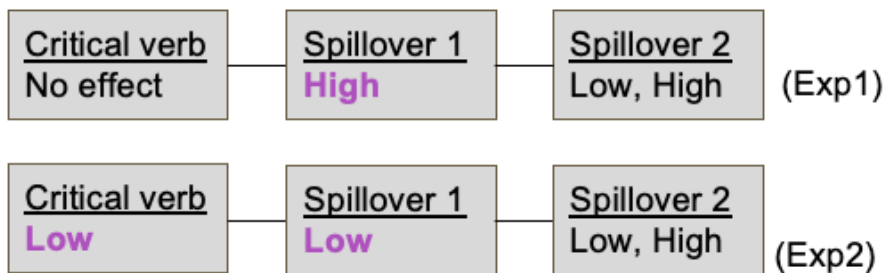
(1) Low head nouns: No parallelism effects

(1) High head nouns: No case mismatch effects

→ not actively use the case markers to predict upcoming argument structure in DRCs

Experiment 2: Discussion

- Parallelism effects



- Immediate reanalysis of the low head noun's grammatical functions
 - Subsequent process of dependencies: Low head noun → high head nouns
- Distinctive semantic information (i.e., animacy) eased integration of low head nouns (Exp1)

Possibility 1: syntactic encoding → subsequent integration of the dependency (High – Low)

Possibility 2: simultaneous processes of syntactic encoding and linking the gaps at the high head noun but easy processing costs due to distinctiveness of semantic information (i.e., animacy)

Experiment 2: Discussion

- Verb transitivity

- Same across experiments

→ The earlier parallelism effect of low head nouns in Exp 2 is not due to verb transitivity

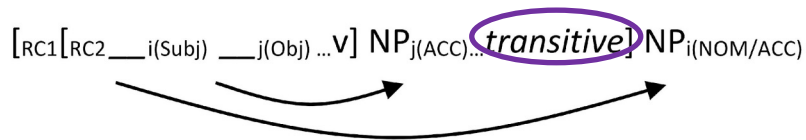
- Different across conditions!

Table 4 A sample set of items for Experiment 2

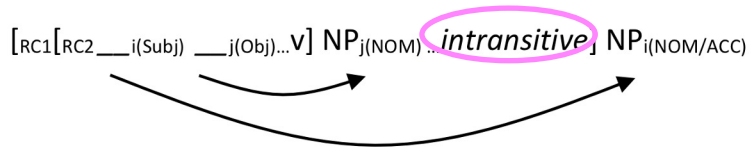
Factors				Examples
Parallelism of the low head noun (object gap)	Parallelism of the high head noun (subject gap)	Case		
(a) Parallel (object)	Parallel (subject)	Mismatch (ACC-NOM)	[RC1[RC2_i_j manhi conkyengha-te-n] sensayngni colepsayng-i...	-ul choykuney kuliwaha-te-n] miss-PST-ADN graduate _r -NOM
(b) Parallel (object)	Non-parallel (object)	Match (ACC-ACC)	[RC1[RC2_i_j manhi conkyengha-te-n] sensayngni colepsayng-ul...	-ul choykuney kuliwaha-te-n] miss-PST-ADN graduate _r -ACC
(c) Non-parallel (subject)	Parallel (subject)	Match (NOM-NOM)	[RC1[RC2_i_j manhi conkyengha-te-n] sensayngni colepsayng-i...	-i choykuney unhoyna-n] retire-ADN graduate _r -NOM
(d) Non-parallel (subject)	Non-parallel (subject)	Mismatch (NOM-ACC)	[RC1[RC2_i_j manhi conkyengha-te-n] sensayngni colepsayng-ul...	-i choykuney unhoyna-n] retire-ADN graduate _r -ACC

Experiment 3

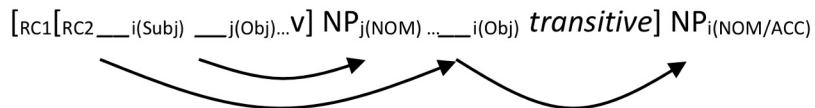
a. Parallel condition



b. Non-parallel condition (intransitives: no intermediate gap)



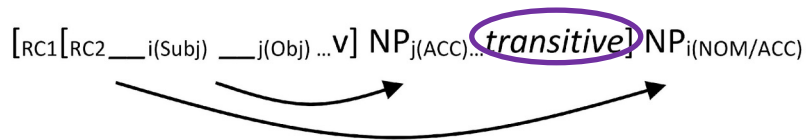
c. Non-parallel condition (transitives: intermediate gap)



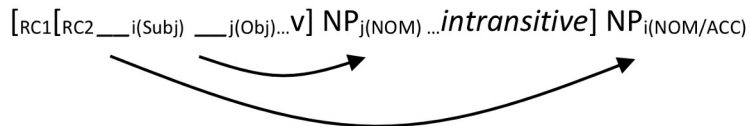
- Parallelism effects of low head nouns
 - Processing loads of non-parallel conditions
 - Verb transitivity
 - Parallel conditions: transitive verbs
 - Non-parallel conditions: intransitive verbs
- Penalty to transitive verbs in language acquisition and dependency movements (Akhtar & Tomasello, 1997; Polinsky et al., 2013 a.o.)

Experiment 3

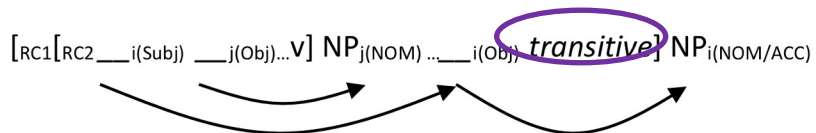
a. Parallel condition



b. Non-parallel condition (intransitives: no intermediate gap)



c. Non-parallel condition (transitives: intermediate gap)



- Parallelism effects of low head nouns
 - Processing loads of non-parallel conditions
 - Verb transitivity
 - Parallel conditions: transitive verbs
 - Non-parallel conditions: intransitive verbs
- Penalty to transitive verbs in language acquisition and dependency movements (Akhtar & Tomasello, 1997; Polinsky et al., 2013 a.o.)
- **Consistent verb transitivity (c)**
 - **An intermediate gap**
 - **Greater parallelism effects?**

Experiment 3

- A self-paced reading task (n=50)
- A sample set of items: critical region = ‘teacher-ACC/NOM (*animate*)’, ‘graduate-ACC/NOM (*animate*)’

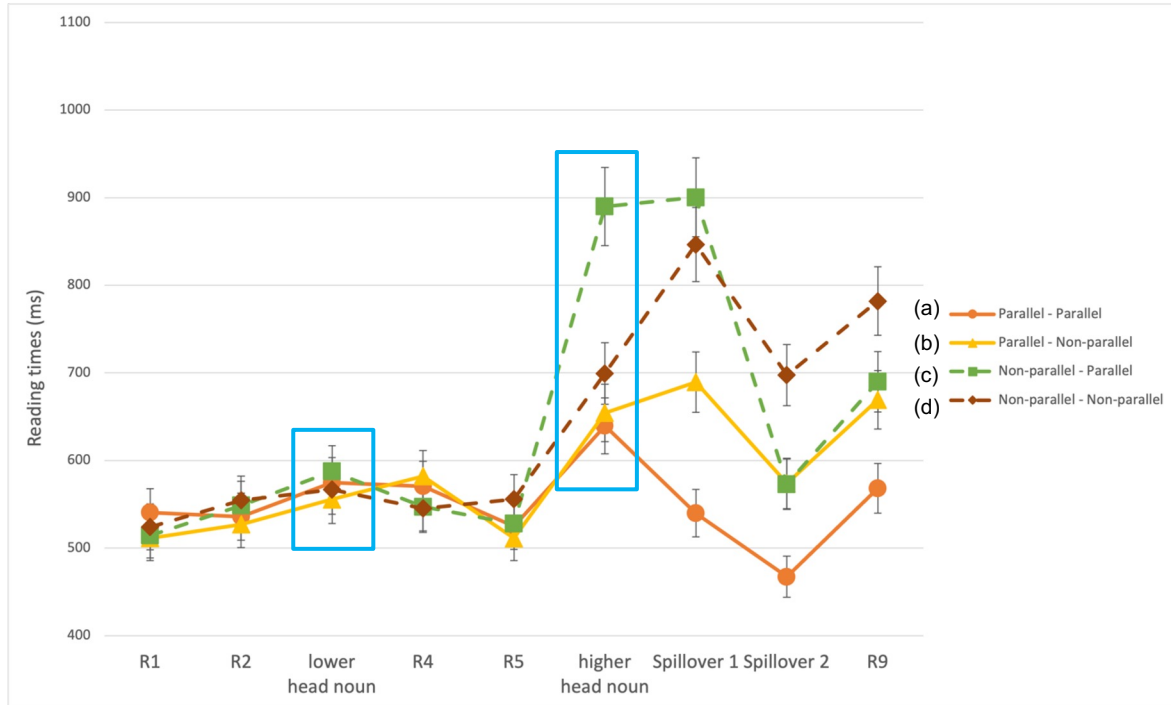
Factors				Case	Examples
Parallelism of the low head noun (object gap)	Parallelism of the high head noun (subject gap)				
(a) Parallel (ACC-object)	Parallel (NOM-subject)	Mismatch	[_{RC1} [_{RC2} _i _j manhi conkyengha-te-n] sensayngnim _j -ul choykune _y kuliweha-te-n]colepsayng _i -i... a lot respect-PST-ADN <i>teacher_j-ACC</i> recently <i>miss-PST-ADN graduate_i-NOM</i>		
(b) Parallel (ACC-object)	Non-parallel (ACC-object)	Match	[_{RC1} [_{RC2} _i _j manhi conkyengha-te-n] sensayngnim _j -ul choykune _y kuliweha-te-n]colepsayng _i -ul... a lot respect-PST-ADN <i>teacher_j-ACC</i> recently <i>miss-PST-ADN graduate_i-ACC</i> ‘the graduate _i [who recently missed the teacher _j [who (the graduate _i) respected _i a lot]]’		
(c) Non-parallel (NOM-subject)	Parallel (NOM-subject)	Match	[_{RC1} [_{RC2} _i _j manhi conkyengha-te-n] sensayngnim _j -i _i choykune _y kuliweha-te-n]colepsayng _i -i... a lot respect-PST-ADN <i>teacher_j-NOM</i> recently <i>miss-PST-ADN graduate_i-NOM</i>		
(d) Non-parallel (NOM-subject)	Non-parallel (ACC-subject)	Mismatch	[_{RC1} [_{RC2} _i _j manhi conkyengha-te-n] sensayngnim _j -i _i choykune _y kuliweha-te-n]colepsayng _i -ul... a lot respect-PST-ADN <i>teacher_j-NOM</i> recently <i>miss-PST-ADN graduate_i-ACC</i> ‘the graduate _i [who the teacher _j [who (the graduate _i) respected _i a lot] recently missed _i a lot]’		

Low head noun

High head noun

Experiment 3: Results

- Measurement: low & high head nouns, and spillover regions

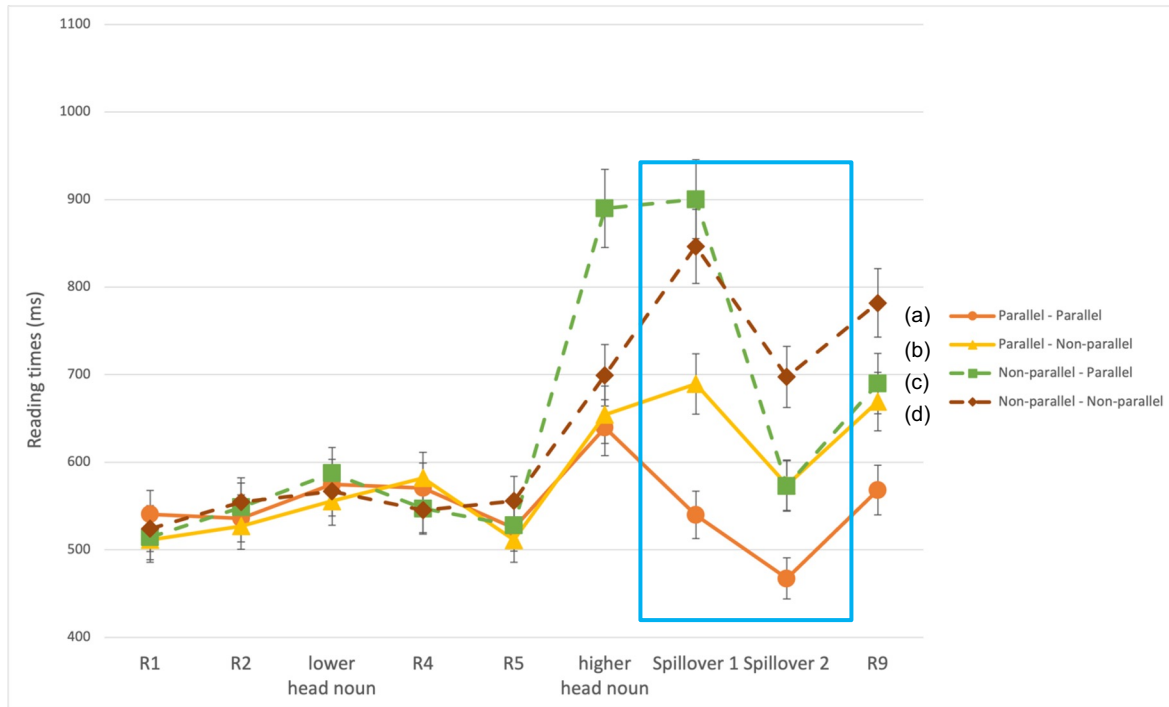


- Low head noun region:**
 - No grammatical-function parallelism effect of a lower head noun
- High head noun region:**
 - Parallelism effect of **low head nouns** (=Exp2)
 - Significantly longer reading time of condition (c)

Mean reading time (ms) by region by condition. Error bars indicate 95% Confidence intervals.

Experiment 3: Results

- Measurement: low & high head nouns and spillover regions



- **Spillover regions:**
 - Spillover 1 region: the grammatical-function parallelism effect of a **lower head noun** was also observed ($t=-4.8, p < .001$)
 - Spillover 2 region: the grammatical-function parallelism effect of **both head nouns** was also observed (all $ps < .05$)

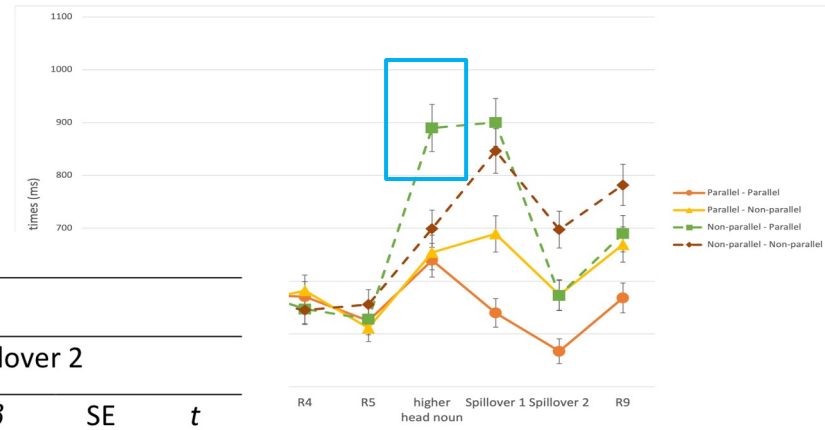
Mean reading time (*ms*) by region by condition. Error bars indicate 95% Confidence intervals.

Experiment 3: Results

Table 9 Summary of statistical analyses by region in Experiment 3

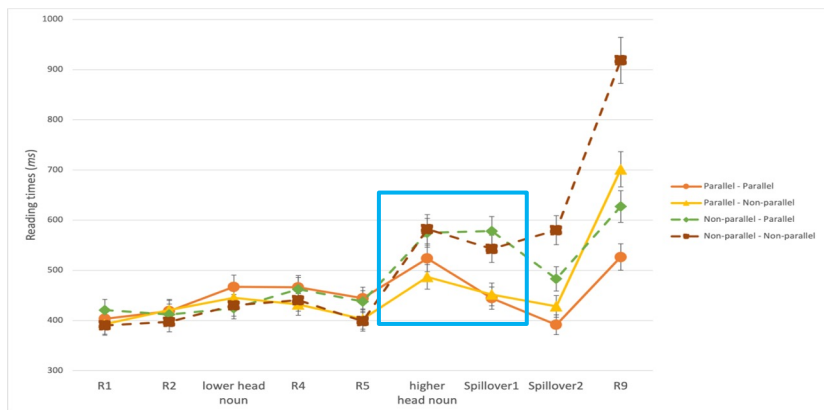
	Regions								
	Critical			Spillover 1			Spillover 2		
	β	SE	t	β	SE	t	β	SE	t
Parallelism effect of a low head noun	-153.32	59.27	-2.58	-257.58	53.39	-4.82	-112.35	32.36	-2.76
Parallelism effect of a high head noun	93.88	58.84	1.59	-48.12	47.02	-1.02	-115.50	41.82	-2.76
Parallelism effect of Low x High head nouns	-222.79	115.19	-1.93	-204.50	77.98	-2.62	14.33	46.71	0.30
Case mismatch	111.39	57.59	1.93	101.64	36.18	2.80	-7.25	27.71	-0.26

Marginal or Significant coefficients ($|t| > 2$) are in bold.

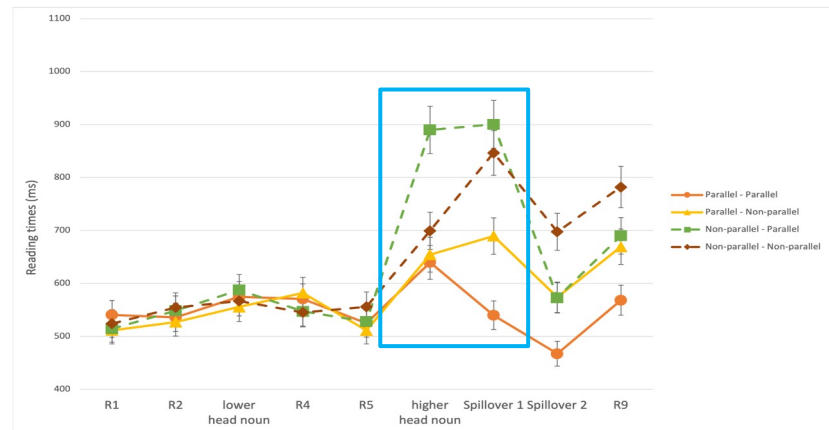


- Interaction between Parallelism effects of head nouns
- (c) longer than (d) → not parallelism effect

Experiment 3: Discussion



Exp2



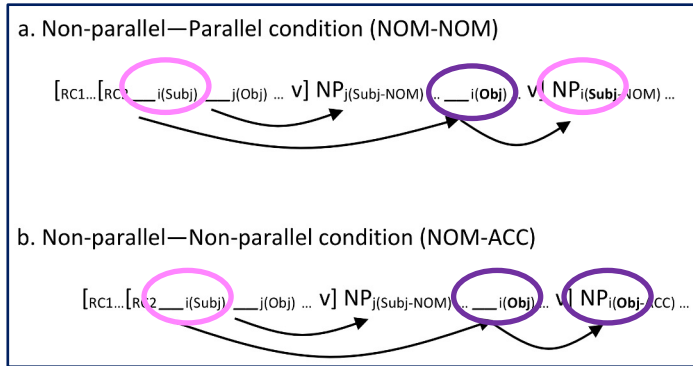
Exp3

- Case mismatch effects? –No, asymmetry!
 - Not for double accusative markers
 - Not due to the violation of predictive parsing
- The peculiarity of double nominative constructions?
 - no, Exp2 results of (c)

(Miyamoto & Takahashi, 2002; Polinsky et al., 2007; Ueno & Kluender, 2003)

Experiment 3: Discussion

- The presence of an intermediate gap of a higher head noun



- Parallelism effects?
 - The status of an intermediate gap is not parallel with neither the high head noun nor its gap

→ accessing an intermediate gap before establishing a long-distance dependency

(Bever & McElree, 1988; Chomsky, 1973, 1995; Gibson & Warren, 2004; Kluender & Kutas, 1993; Love & Swinney, 1996; Nicol & Swinney, 1989)

GENERAL DISCUSSION

1. Semantic-syntactic information: Parallelism

1. Parallelism

- No parallelism effect at lower head noun regions (but higher head noun regions)
→ The lack of a significant role for the parallelism effect in literature on single-gap relative clauses

c. OS condition (object head noun- subject gap)

e.g., The pig bumps into the horse_i [that ____j jumps over the giraffe].

d. OO condition (object head noun- object gap)

e.g., The dog stands on the horse_i that the giraffe jumps over ____j.

c. SRC

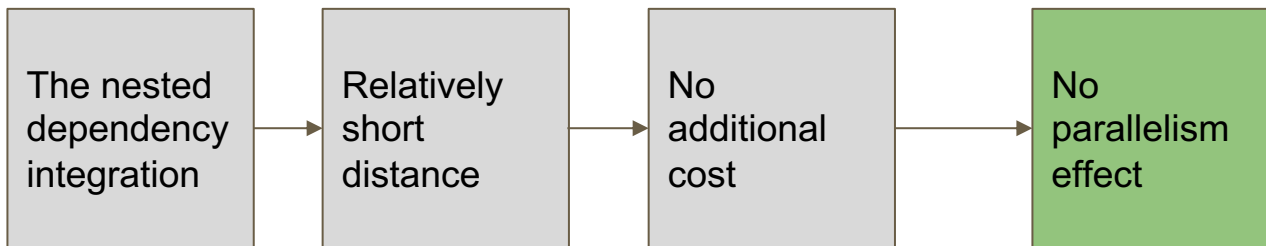
d. ORC

(Sheldon, 1974: 275)

- Parallelism effect: Parallel function > Non-parallel function ($d > c$)
- Subject advantage (King & Just, 1991): SRCs advantage over ORCs ($c > d$)

1. Parallelism

- Parallelism effect & dependency distance:
 - Gibson (1998)'s Syntactic Prediction Locality Theory (SPLT):
 - Integration cost and memory cost influenced by “**Locality**”:
longer distance integrations take more costs than local integrations.



- No parallelism effects in single gap clauses
 - ➔ Actively employ parallelism only when dealing with longer FGD, crossing clauses, or involving multiple FGD.

1. Parallelism

- Nakamura & Miyamoto (2013)

- Not fully balanced syntactic configuration

[[gap1 gap2 V] filler1 V] filler2

NOM

TOPIC

→ Both should prefer subject gaps

- Predicting a distinct grammatical function for the upcoming argument
- Animacy effects (inanimate low head nouns)
(Ness & Meltzer-Asscher, 2019; Wagers & Phillips, 2014)

1. Parallelism

- Parallelism effects in various levels of structures and dependencies

- Coordinate structure (Across-the-Board extraction; Williams, 1978)

a. The surgeon who James tricked [object] and Richard annoyed [object] scrubbed up...



b. *?The surgeon who [subject] tricked James and Richard annoyed [object] scrubbed up...



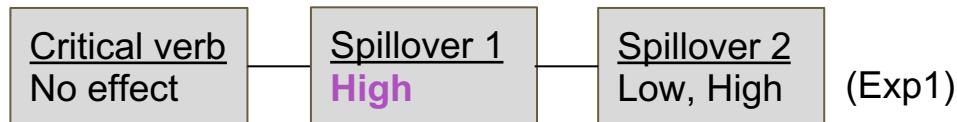
- Subordinate clauses (Sturt et al., 2010)
- Pronoun resolution (Hall & Yoshida, 2021)
- Across word categories (Tamaoka et al, 2022)
- Prosodic-level components (Carlson, 2001)

➔ Active use of parallelism in various multiple dependency constructions

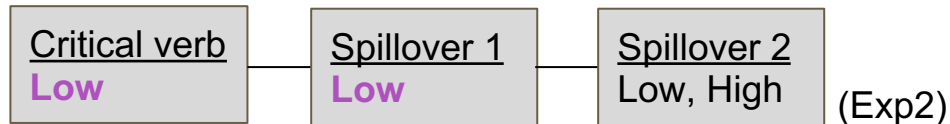
2. Interaction with semantic information: Animacy

2. Semantic information: Animacy

- Inanimate Low – Animate High



- Animate Low – Animate High



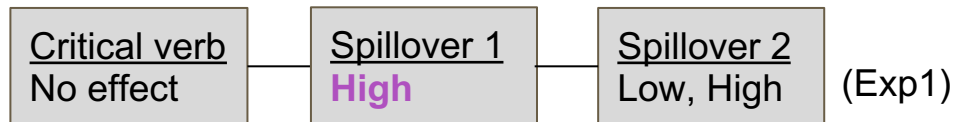
→ No need for reanalysis when low head nouns was inanimate (Exp1)

→ Immediate reanalysis of low head nouns when both head nouns are animate (Exp2)

- Subsequent integration of dependencies (low head noun → high head noun)

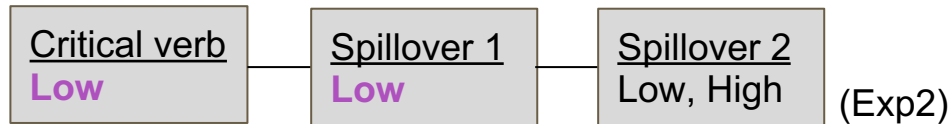
2. Semantic information: Animacy

- Inanimate Low – Animate High



- Animate Low – Animate High

1. Syntax-first account (Clifton et al, 2003)



- Primacy of syntactic cues over semantic ones, two-stage parsing
- Prediction: no animacy effect

2. Interactive use of all linguistic information (Boland, 1997; MacDonald et al., 1994)

- immediate integration of semantic information (Altmann & Steedman, 1998; Pickering & Traxler, 1998)

2. Semantic information: Animacy

- Animacy effect on processing relative clauses (SRC & ORC)
 - Reduced when the object within the RC was inanimate (Dutch, Mak et al. 2002)
 - Greater interference from an animate object than from an inanimate object (Hofmeister & Vasishth, 2014; Kush et al., 2015; Nairne, 1990; Villata et al., 2018)
- Semantic information outweighs structural information (Ferreira, 2003; Stoops et al., 2014)
 - Syntax-first accounts based on languages with rigid word orders (English) or less complex morphological systems (German) (Bornkessel-Schlesewsky & Schlewsky, 2006, 2009b; van Dyke & McElree, 2006)
 - Korean: active use of semantic information for multiple dependency integrations (ambiguous sentences in Russian, Stoops et al., 2014)

3. Morphosyntactic information: Case markers

3. Morphosyntactic information: Case markers

- Reliable cue for assigning both grammatical and thematic roles in rich case marking systems (Kamide, Altmann, et al., 2003; Knoeferle et al., 2005; Traxler & Pickering, 1996)
- Distinctiveness of case marking affects processing
 - Retrieval cue in dependency formation (e.g., subject-verb agreements)
 - Avetisyan et al (2020): postnominal relatives
 - The painter(s)_{NOM} [RC that the sculptor_{NOM}...V...]
 - The painter(s)_{ACC} [RC that the sculptor_{NOM}...V...]
 - Predictive cue
 - Participants predictively looked at a potentially object-related picture when the first NP was nominative-marked. (Kamide et al. 2003)
 - Predictive processing even before the verb in head-final languages (Henry et al. 2017; Hopp, 2015; Knoeferle et al. 2005)

3. Morphosyntactic information: Case markers

- No case effect (no slowdown for the same case marker)
 - not used to predict upcoming argument structures
(cf. Double nominative constructions in Experiment 3)
- Possibility 1: Not employ predictive parsing because of temporary ambiguity
- Possibility 2: Awareness of structural complexity—not within the same structure!

Implication for general parsing mechanism

- Backward dependency constructions
 - Reactivate previously parsed elements
- Interactive use of syntactic and semantic information, rather than syntax-first modular account (Boland, 1997)

Selected References

- Boland, J. (1997). Resolving syntactic category ambiguities in discourse context: Probabilistic and discourse constraints. *Journal of Memory and Language*, 36, 588–615.
- Gibson, E. (1998). Linguistic complexity: Locality of syntactic dependencies. *Cognition*, 68, 1–76.
- Kamide, Y., Scheepers, C., & Altmann, G. T. M. (2003). Integration of syntactic and semantic information in predictive processing: Cross-linguistic evidence from German and English. *Journal of Psycholinguistic Research*, 32(1), 37–55.
- Knoeferle, P., Crocker, M. W., Scheepers, C., & Pickering, M. J. (2005). The influence of the immediate visual context on incremental thematic role-assignment: Evidence from eye-movements in depicted events. *Cognition*, 95(1), 95–127.
- Hartsuiker, R. J., Schriefers, H. J., Bock, K., & Kikstra, G. M. (2003). Morphophonological influences on the construction of subject-verb agreement. *Memory & Cognition*, 31(8), 1316–1326.

Thank you!



Part of this research was presented at the Architectures and mechanisms of language processing (AmLaP) conference 2022, the Linguistic Society of America Annual Meeting (LSA) 2023, and the 30th Japanese/Korean (JK) Linguistics Conference.

We thank these audiences for their valuable feedback. Parts of the current experiments were included in the proceedings of the Linguistic Society of America (PLSA) 2023.

