DEVELOPMENT AND ADAPTATION OF ACTIVE DEPENDENCY COMPLETION MECHANISMS

National Science Foundation #BCS-1423117, “Development and adaptation of active dependency completion mechanisms”. PI. $391,214. 2014-2018

This project investigates the development and adaptation of filler-gap dependency processing mechanisms in children and adults. The main hypothesis of this project is that children's comprehension mechanisms may adapt to an adult-like mechanism based on a) a long-term accumulation of filler-gap dependencies that complete at the verb position, as well as b) syntactic priming of such filler-gap dependencies within an experimental session. Conversely, adults' comprehension mechanisms should also adapt to the child-like, conservative mechanism after exposure to filler-gap dependencies that are completed at a post-verbal position. To test these predictions, Dr. Omaki will conduct a corpus study and eye-tracking experiments that explore the relation between language experience and real-time comprehension of filler-gap dependencies.


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Research Type: Projects and Grants
Research Status: Completed/published
Related Fields: First Language Acquisition

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