

Abstract

This study consisted of two experiments manipulating the variables of the verb and the subject in a sentence. The non-cumulative word-by-word moving window technique was used to investigate the effect of semantic information of verb and noun on sentence processing. Two sets of experimental materials were designed to test the existing models of parsing. The first experiment dealt with the semantic information of the verb. The second experiment concerned the semantic information of the subject. In order to avoid interference, we standardized the syntactic structure of all sentences used. Mean reading time difference of the implausible and plausible sentences was observed and found that the semantic ambiguity constrained readers' initial parsing. There was an increase in reading time of object in the implausible sentences. Readers took into account the semantic information during initial sentence processing. Readers incorporated semantic information during initial parsing. The evidence supported the interactive model of parsing emphasizing parallel processing of incoming information.