

Abstract

Two experiments were conducted using searching and recognition tasks to examine the effect of Word Type, Sentential Coherence, and Target Similarity in sentence comprehension. The combined results of the two experiments showed a main effect of Word Type and a Task x Sentential Coherence interaction with scrambled sentences adversely affect the performance in searching and enhance performance in recognition. In addition, response times were generally faster for nouns than for verbs, showing a more prominent role of nouns in sentence comprehension by acting as the core of the semantic analysis of the sentence. The results imply that nouns are more readily accessible than verbs, which contribute to the inherent syntactic process of forming relations among the components of the sentence, during searching and recognition.