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Front Matter

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Dickey and Tunstall: Front Matter

University of Massachusetts
Occasional Papers 19

Linguistics in the Laboratory

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PREFACE

We are pleased to present UMOP 19, *Linguistics in the Laboratory*. The papers collected here use laboratory-based experimental methods to investigate topics traditionally studied with native speakers' intuitions and reference grammars. Each paper looks at a different point where the grammar and the systems instantiating it meet. Though they vary widely in the topics they address, these papers all provide new insight into the structure of the language processing system, the grammar, or both.

Several of the papers here examine topics that have previously been unaddressed in the psycholinguistic and phonetic literature. **Lyn Frazier**, **Bernadette Plunkett**, and **Charles Clifton** investigate the interaction between the processing of quantifiers and the parsing of reflexives in English, finding that the scopal properties of quantifiers and *wh*-phrases can affect how reflexives locate their antecedents on-line. **Susanne Tunstall** looks at the processing of definite noun phrases in English and shows that the unacceptability of Extraposition from definite phrases can be explained by the way definite phrases are integrated into discourse by the parser. **Michael Walsh Dickey** investigates how resumptive pronouns are processed on-line in English and shows that parsing effects seen for marginal English resumptive pronouns can explain the behavior of grammatical resumptive pronouns in a number of other languages. **Bart Hollebrandse** and **Angeliek van Hout** examine the acquisition of light verbs by children learning Dutch and English, demonstrating that light verbs are learned early and easily by children.

Two sets of papers look at formal distinctions in the grammar and how they interact with the language processing system. The first group examines whether formal grammatical distinctions can affect how the language processor functions. **Jill Beckman** presents new on-line and off-line data on double-object extractions in English, showing that the definiteness of the items being extracted directly affects the processing of these constructions. **Laura Walsh Dickey** examines the processing of lexical prosody in Japanese and English, and demonstrates that the different ways that prosodic information is represented in the two languages determines how and when lexical prosody is processed in each. **Stacy Birch** and **Charles Clifton** also examine the processing of prosody in English, showing that intonational cues strongly affect the processing of Given and New information as it is integrated into discourse.

The second set of papers is interested in how formal grammatical distinctions are manifested and made use of in the phonetic processor. **José Benki** examines the perception of F0 and F1 in English vowel sounds, finding that their interaction directly correlates with the [± high] vowel height distinction. **Christine Bartels** and **John Kingston** look at the perception of focus, showing that changes in fundamental frequency are strong cues in the perception of contrastive focus.

Finally, there are papers which examine the structure and function of the language processing system itself. **Shelia Kennison** presents new on-line evidence on the processing of prepositional phrases in English, showing that their attachment into syntactic structure is not affected by lexical biases of the verbs they are associated with, *contra* the assumptions of many current models of the parser. **Lyn Frazier**, **J. Henstra**, and **G.B. Flores d' Arcais** examine how pronouns in Dutch find their antecedents on-line, arguing for a system in which both linguistic and conceptual representations are checked when searching for an

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antecedent, with semantic/pragmatic information being used to select among candidates.

We now leave it to the authors themselves. We hope you enjoy reading these papers as much as we have.

Michael Walsh Dickey
Susanne Tunstall

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