



THE UNIVERSITY *of* EDINBURGH

Edinburgh Research Explorer

Different case marking does not dampen attraction effect in comprehension: Evidence from an eye-tracking study of subject-verb honorific agreement in Korean

Citation for published version:

Kwon, N & Sturt, P 2017, 'Different case marking does not dampen attraction effect in comprehension: Evidence from an eye-tracking study of subject-verb honorific agreement in Korean' CUNY Sentence Processing Conference, Boston, United States, 31/03/17, .

Link:

[Link to publication record in Edinburgh Research Explorer](#)

General rights

Copyright for the publications made accessible via the Edinburgh Research Explorer is retained by the author(s) and / or other copyright owners and it is a condition of accessing these publications that users recognise and abide by the legal requirements associated with these rights.

Take down policy

The University of Edinburgh has made every reasonable effort to ensure that Edinburgh Research Explorer content complies with UK legislation. If you believe that the public display of this file breaches copyright please contact openaccess@ed.ac.uk providing details, and we will remove access to the work immediately and investigate your claim.



Different case marking does not dampen attraction effect in comprehension: Evidence from an eye-tracking study of subject-verb honorific agreement in Korean

Nayoung Kwon¹ & Patrick Sturt²
¹ Konkuk University, ² University of Edinburgh

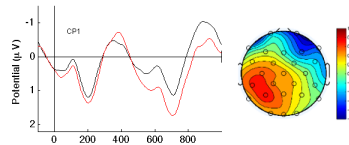
Background & Research questions

➤ **Memory retrieval is content addressable** (Lewis & Vasishth, 2005; Lewis et al., 2006; McElree et al., 2003; Van Dyke & McElree, 2006)
 → Potential targets in memory are activated in parallel in response to retrieval cues.

- Facilitatory intrusion : Reading time penalty for a mismatching dependency could be reduced due to the presence of a partially matching distractor (Wagers et al. 2009; Vasishth et al. 2008; Xiang et al. 2009)
 - Similarity based interference : Processing difficulty that occurs when the intended dependency target completely matches the retrieval cues, but where there is also a partial match with the distractor (Badecker & Straub, 2002; cf. Chow et al., 2014; Dillon et al., 2013)
- (a) The musician who the reviewer **praise** won the prize.
 (b) The musicians who the reviewer **praise** won the prize.
- reading times at praise: (b) < (shorter) than (a)
- (a) John thought that Bill owed **him** another chance.
 (b) John thought that Beth owed **him** another chance.
- reading times at him: (a) > (longer) than (b)

➤ Korean

- SOV word order with case marking & impoverished verbal agreement except for subject honorific agreement
 - Subject honorific suffix **-si-** is optional and can be omitted (a) but when used, should agree with the subject in honorific feature (b)
 - cannot be used with a subject of low social status (c)
- a) Grandpa-nom TV-acc watch-decl (optional)
 b) Grandpa-nom TV-acc watch-**si-**decl
 c) *Kid-nom TV-acc watch-**si-**decl
- Subject honorific violation in Korean elicits a P600 (Kwon & Sturt, 2015).



➤ **Goal of study: To investigate whether a distinct case marker from a licit antecedent would dampen attraction effects** (cf. Nicol et al. 2016)

Experiment & Results (4 conditions: ± honorific features x subject/object; Emb.Verb-honorific)

➤ Experimental conditions

Main subj	Emb subj	W1	W2	W3	W4	W5	W6	W7	W8	
H	H	Teacher _i -nom	editor _k -dat	PRO _i	demo	cd-acc	listen- si -comp	calm	voice-in	said
NH	H	Minji _i -nom	editor _k -dat	PRO _i	demo	cd-acc	listen- si -comp	calm	voice-in	said
H	NH	Teacher _i -nom	Tayho _k -dat	PRO _i	demo	cd-acc	listen- si -comp	calm	voice-in	said
NH	NH	Minji _i -nom	Tayho _k -dat	PRO _i	demo	cd-acc	listen- si -comp	calm	voice-in	said

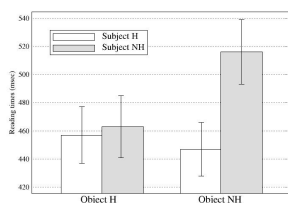
'The teacher/Minji_i told the editor_k/Tayho_k in a calm voice that she_i would listen to a demo cd.'

➤ Methods

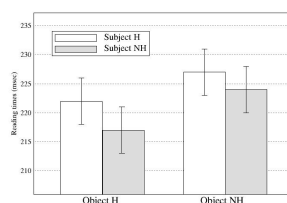
- Participants: 40 native Korean speakers
- Procedures: calibrated for every stimuli
- Materials: 40 sets of experimental sentences
- Eyelink 1000 Plus

➤ Results

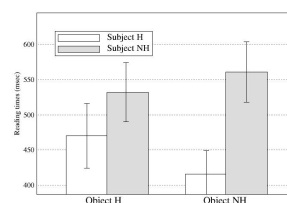
• At the critical verb (W5)
 : go-past durations (Interaction $t = 2.06$)



• At W6 (spill-over)
 : first fixation durations (main object $t = -1.93$)



• At W6 (spill-over)
 : go-past durations (main subject $t = 3.12$)



- The attraction effect did not differ from an analogous parallel study that employed the same case markers for licit and illicit antecedents (interaction with experiment $t < 1.2$)

Discussion & Conclusions

- These results suggest in agreement comprehension distinct overt case marking of a distractor (here, dative case) from that of the licit antecedent (here, nominative case) did not weaken attraction.
- The strong attraction effect in this experiment could be due to proximity of a distractor to the critical verb as it linearly intervenes with the subject-verb agreement.
- This suggests that attraction effect (or retrieval of potential antecedents) is more strongly modulated by proximity rather than morpho-syntactic cues such as case marking in comprehension.

This research was supported by National Research Foundation of Korea (NRF-2014S1A2A2028232).