

You are “*the only one*”...how far do we go in search for referents?

Francesca Foppolo^{*}, Luisa Meroni[#] and Andrea Gualmini[#] (Arbiter)

^{*}University of Milano-Bicocca, [#]Utrecht Institute of Linguistics-OTS

Purpose of the visit

Luisa Meroni (2nd participant) and Andrea Gualmini (arbiter) meet Francesca Foppolo (1st participant) at the University of Milano-Bicocca (Milan). Preparation of experimental stimuli (pictures and sounds) to be used with Tobii eye-tracker for the baseline experiment with adults.

Work carried out during the second visit

Preparation of stimuli (pictures and sentences) as in the detailed report I (see First visit) and of a power point presentation questionnaire for an off-line test to be used as pilot.

We have thus finalized the single images that will form the quadrants of the final trials of our experiment for all the conditions established during the first visit. Besides following the ‘rationale’ already discussed in our first visit (see Report I) the work also involved choosing the proper and clear emoticons which will be used in the predicates of the target sentences (es: The big circle is the only one that is smiling). In doing it we made sure all the emoticons were understandable and not ambiguous and that the correspondent predicate could be used in both languages (Italian and Dutch). This aspect is very important since we will use ‘still’ images rather than video in our experiment and thus representation of the actions expressed by predicates is not always straightforward. Special attention was also given to the size and position of the objects and emoticons used in the picture. We wanted to have objects of the same size and we paid particular attention in placing the emoticons always in the same position. In assembling the final trial picture with 4 different quadrants, we also made sure that the ‘crucial quadrant’ (the one that will provide the relevant information to give an answer) was always varying for position across trials. Below is the schema of the experimental trials as decided in our first visit.

#	List 1 (C-T)	#	List 2 (C-F)
6	Scalar C	6	Scalar C
6	Scalar T	6	Scalar F
6	Non-scalar C	6	Non-scalar C
6	Non scalar T	6	Non scalar F
16	true fillers	24	true fillers
24	false fillers	16	false

All the stimuli are now ready. The next step is then to run the experiment.