

Scientific Report

ESF Short Visit Grant within the framework of the ESF Activity entitled 'Experimental Pragmatics in Europe'

Valentina Bambini

Project meeting in Lyon, France between Valentina Bambini & Petra Schumacher and the arbiter Ira Noveck from March 29 – 31, 2010.

Valentina Bambini and Petra Schumacher met in Lyon to discuss the progress of the ESF project and make final decisions on experimental design and predictions. We presented our project at *Laboratoire sur le langage, le cerveau et la cognition*, Lyon and discussed the proposed research questions and experiments with Ira Noveck (the arbiter). We settled on specific research questions, experimental conditions, design features, pretests, and distribution of labor among our labs.

We decided to run two experiments to test the following research questions:

1. Is there a literal-first step in language processing?
 - Method: masked priming event-related potential study
 - Language: German
 - 2x2x2 design: literal vs. figurative (metaphor, metonymy), masked priming (present, absent)

2. Are there differences between metaphors and metonymy?
 - Method: speed accuracy tradeoff
 - Language: Italian
 - 3x2 design: literal vs. figurative (metaphor, metonymy, approximation)
 - approximation serves as testing ground to assess difference and should pattern with metaphor