

Proposed project work

As we discussed in more detail in our full proposal, our travel grant deals experimentally with the cognitive processes that underlie the paradigm cases of lexical enrichment that have been distinguished in the relevant literature (Wilson & Carston 2007). We have already completed a second round of experiments in which we cross-examined activation versus suppression mechanisms of irrelevant and relevant features for metaphorical interpretations and have found some interesting results which Tomlinson has just presented as a poster at the 25th annual CUNY Conference on Human Sentence Processing in New York. Against this background, the purpose of the 4th visit (of Tomlinson to Assimakopoulos at the University of Malta) will be threefold: (a) to finalise the analysis of the statistical data we already have, and (b) discuss results of two recent experiments and plan a follow-up experiment and (c) to start preparing the various manuscripts for publication in various international outlets. Notably, we are conducting experiments that have binded our mousetracking paradigm with the lexical priming one used by Rubio Fernandez (2007,2008) through the use of pictures. Comparing the mechanisms of activation and suppression, initial results suggest that context doesn't increase the activation of non-salient, albeit relevant features for the figurative interpretation of the metaphor, rather context seems to suppress salient, metaphor irrelevant features. One goal of our visit is to examine whether longer and stronger contexts had any differential effects on suppression versus activation mechanisms and discuss, and potentially plan, a third and final study using longer contexts, entire paragraph or even video contexts, to see if non-salient relevant features can be activated by the right context.

Curriculum Vitae

John M. Tomlinson, Jr.
Date of Birth: 21/5/1980
Nationality: American

HIGHER EDUCATION

- June 2009: PhD in Psychology, University of California at Santa Cruz
Thesis title: Talking it up: Listeners' comprensión of uptalk in spontaneous speech
- June 2006: M.S in Psychology. University of California at Santa Cruz
- June 2004: BA in German Studies University of Georgia/Universität Heidelberg.
- June 2003: BS in Psychology. University of Georgia

PUBLICATIONS AND PRESENTATIONS

Journal Articles

Tomlinson, Jr. J. M. & Fox Tree, J. E. (2011). Listeners' comprehension of uptalk in spontaneous speech. *Cognition*, 119, pgs 58-69.

Richardson, D. C., Dale, R. & Tomlinson, Jr. J.M. (2009). Conversation, gaze coordination, and beliefs about visual context. *Cognitive Science*, 33, 1468-1482.

Fox Tree, J. E. & Tomlinson, Jr., J. M. (2008). The rise of like in spontaneous quotations. *Discourse Processes*, 45, 1-18.

Conference Proceedings (Peer-reviewed)

de Marneffe, M., Tomlinson, Jr. J. M., Sumner, M. & Pindea, M. (2011). Manipulating within-speaker variation in non-native speech perception. The 33rd Proceedings of the Cognitive Science Society. *Cognitive Science Society*.

Tomlinson, Jr. J. M., Bott, L. & Baily, T. (2011). Understanding basic meanings before pragmatic inference. Proceedings of the 24th Annual CUNY conference on human sentence processing.

Tomlinson, Jr., J. M. & Fox Tree, J. E. (2009). Talking it up: how the functions of rising declaratives depend on prolongations and listeners' expectations. In N.A. Taatgen & H. van Rijn (Eds.), The 31st Proceedings of the Cognitive Science Society. Cognitive Science Society.

Richardson, D. C., Dale, R. Kircham, N., & Tomlinson, Jr. J. M. (2008). Conversation, common ground, and gaze coordination. Paper presented at 14th Annual Conference on Architectures and Mechanisms for Language Processing, September 2008, Cambridge, UK.

Tomlinson, Jr. J. M. & Richardson, D. C. (2007). Do you believe what eye believe? In B. Kokinov, D. C. Richardson, T. R. Roth-Berghofer, & L. Vieu(Eds.), Modeling and Using Context: The Proceedings of the 6th International and Interdisciplinary Conference of CONTEXT 2007. (pp. 482-492). Berlin Heidelberg: Springer Verlag.

Conference presentations

Tomlinson, Jr., J. M. & Fox Tree, J. E. (2009). Uptalk in time: how prolongations differentiate conflicting functions of rising pitch. Poster presented at the 22nd Annual CUNY conference on human sentence processing, Davis, CA.

Richardson, D. C., Dale, R., & Tomlinson, Jr., J. M (2009). Conversation, gaze coordination and beliefs about visual context. Poster presented at the 22nd Annual CUNY conference on human sentence processing, Davis, CA.

Tomlinson, Jr., J.M., Liu, Q., & Fox Tree, J. E. (2009). The auditory illusion of the stress shift. Poster presented at 2009 APS Annual Convention, May 22 - 25, 2009 in San Francisco, CA.

Tomlinson, J. M. Jr. & Fox Tree, J.E. (2005). Like, all like, just like, and said; How people use and understand these new and old quotatives. Poster presented at the Annual meeting for the Society of Discourse and Text, Amsterdam, Netherlands.

RELEVANT WORK EXPERIENCE

- ***October 2010 to date:*** Postdoctoral Research Associate. Caridff University.
- ***Sept 2009 to Sept 2010:*** Postdoctoral Research Associate. Stanford University
- ***2008 to 2009:*** Course lecturer, University of California at Santa Cruz.
- ***2004 to 2008:*** Teaching Assistant , University of California at Santa Cruz.