

Processing different aspects of meaning. Experimental report

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Aspects of meaning :

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(Domaneschi 2016, Schwarz 2015)

1. Sentence meaning
2. What is said
3. Presuppositions
4. Implicatures

Reinforceability:

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„Implicatures seem to be the only kinds of pragmatic or semantic inferences that are freely reinforceable – can be conjoined with an overt statement of their content without a sense of anomalous redundancy”
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After communicating an assumption at the level of conversational implicature we can express it explicitly.

Reinforceability: conversational implicatures

A: Do you have a cigarette?

B: I quit smoking three years ago.

Reinforceability: conversational implicatures

A: Do you have a cigarette?

B: I quit smoking three years ago, I don't have cigarettes.

Reinforceability: presuppositions

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A: I regret that I had a beer last night.

Reinforceability: presuppositions

A: I regret that I had a beer last night and I drank
beer last night.

Research questions:

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1. Can we reinforce conversational implicatures without producing a sense of anomalous redundancy?

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1. Can we reinforce conversational implicatures without producing a sense of anomalous redundancy?
2. Can we reinforce presuppositions triggered by different lexical elements without producing a sense of anomalous redundancy?

Research questions:

1. Factive verbs.
2. Change of state verbs.
3. Temporal clauses.
4. Implicative verbs.

Results of the first experiment:

1. Conversational implicatures can be reinforced without producing a sense of anomalous redundancy.
2. Presuppositions cannot be reinforced without producing a sense of anomalous redundancy, with an exception of presuppositions triggered by implicative verbs.

Implicative verbs:

1. Managed to X
2. Forgot X
3. X happened to V

Implicative verbs:

1. Managed to X >> tried to X
2. Forgot X >> ought to X
3. X happened to V >> X didn't plan or intend to V

Results of the first experiment:

Włodarczyk, M. Are Implicative Verbs Presupposition Triggers? Evidence from Polish. In: M. Witek, I. Witczak-Plisiecka (eds.), *Poznan Studies in the Philosophy of the Sciences and the Humanities: Varieties and Dynamics of Speech Actions* (forthcoming).

Accommodation:

Accommodation:

A: Can you be at the meeting?

B: I have to pick up my sister at the airport

Accommodation:

Rule of accommodation for presuppositions:

„If at time t something is said that requires presupposition P to be acceptable, and if P is not presupposed just before t , then – *ceteris paribus* and within certain limits – presupposition P comes into existence at t .“ (Lewis 1979, p. 340)

Accommodation:

„Presupposition accommodation is the process by which the context is adjusted quietly and without fuss to accept the utterance of a sentence that puts certain requirements on the context in which it is processed.” (Von Stechow 2008, s. 1)

Second experiment:

- 36 dialogues.
- 4 triggers: factive verbs, change of state verbs, definite descriptions and implicative verbs.
- Implicative verbs in two contexts: neutral and accommodation facilitating context
- Questions regarding information communicated by different aspects.

Second experiment:

A: He forgot to close the window.

B: He forgot to visit his sick grandmother at the hospital.

Second experiment:

A: Anna does not regret that she went to the concert.

B: The music was fantastic.

Second experiment:

A: Anna does not regret that she went to the concert.

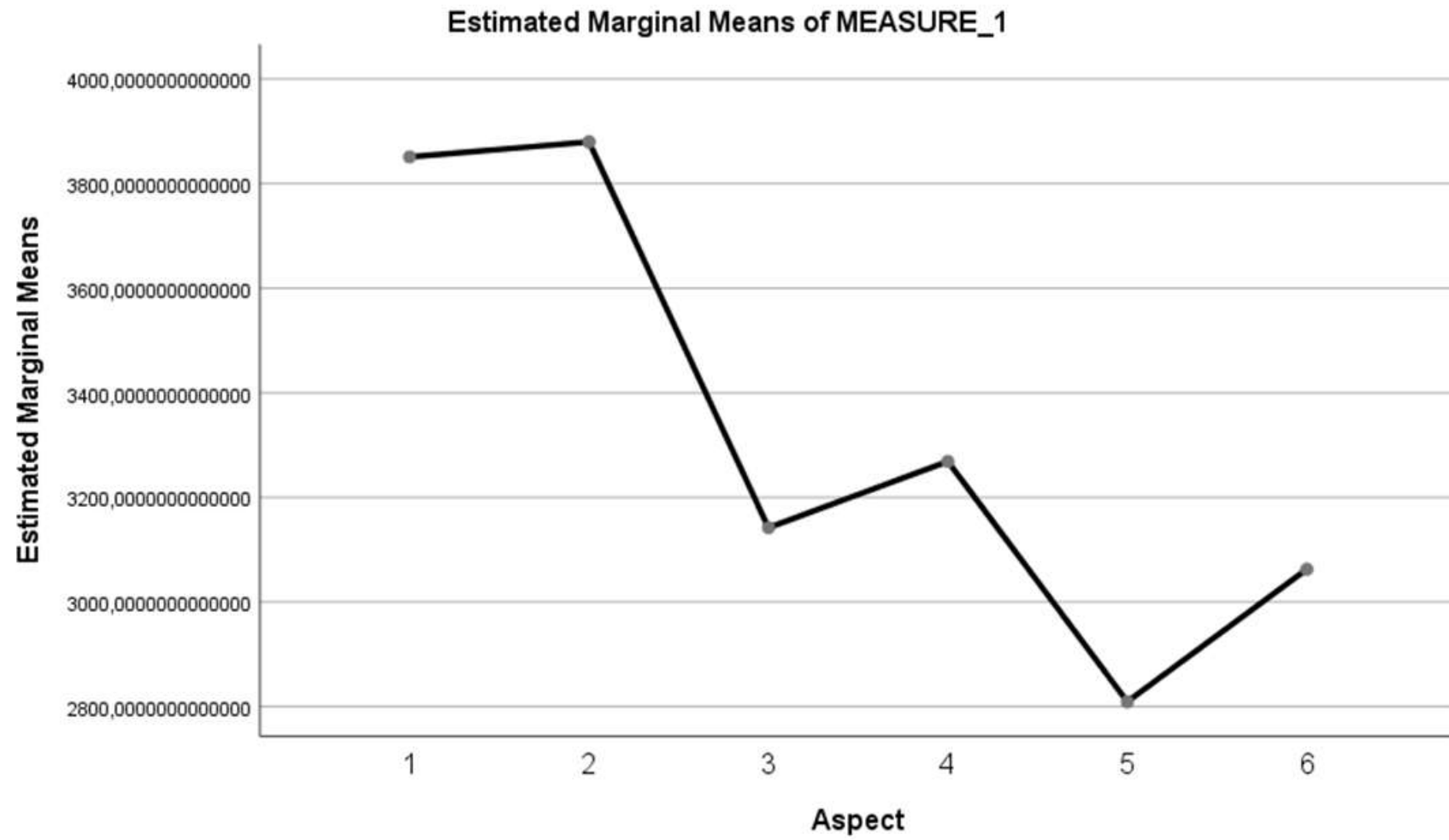
B: The music was fantastic.

Question: Did Anna went to the concert?

Response times: Mean and SD

	Mean	Standard deviation	N
1. Implicative Verbs	3850,88	1886,82	32
2. Implicative Verbs (cont)	3879,65	2138,51	32
3. Factive verbs	3142,11	1440,29	32
4. Change of state verbs	3268,75	1437,76	32
5. Definite descriptions	2809,39	1399,16	32
6. Con. implicatures	3062,53	1407,85	32

Response times:



Response times: Tests of Within-Subjects Effects

Source		Type III Sum of Squares	df	Mean Square	F	Sig.	Partial Eta Squared
Aspect	Sphericity Assumed	30555932,718	5	6111186,544	5,836	,000	,158
	Greenhouse-Geisser	30555932,718	2,857	10695473,340	5,836	,001	,158
	Huynh-Feldt	30555932,718	3,177	9616750,970	5,836	,001	,158
	Lower-bound	30555932,718	1,000	30555932,718	5,836	,022	,158

$F(5,155) = 5,836; p < 0.02; \eta^2 = 0,158$

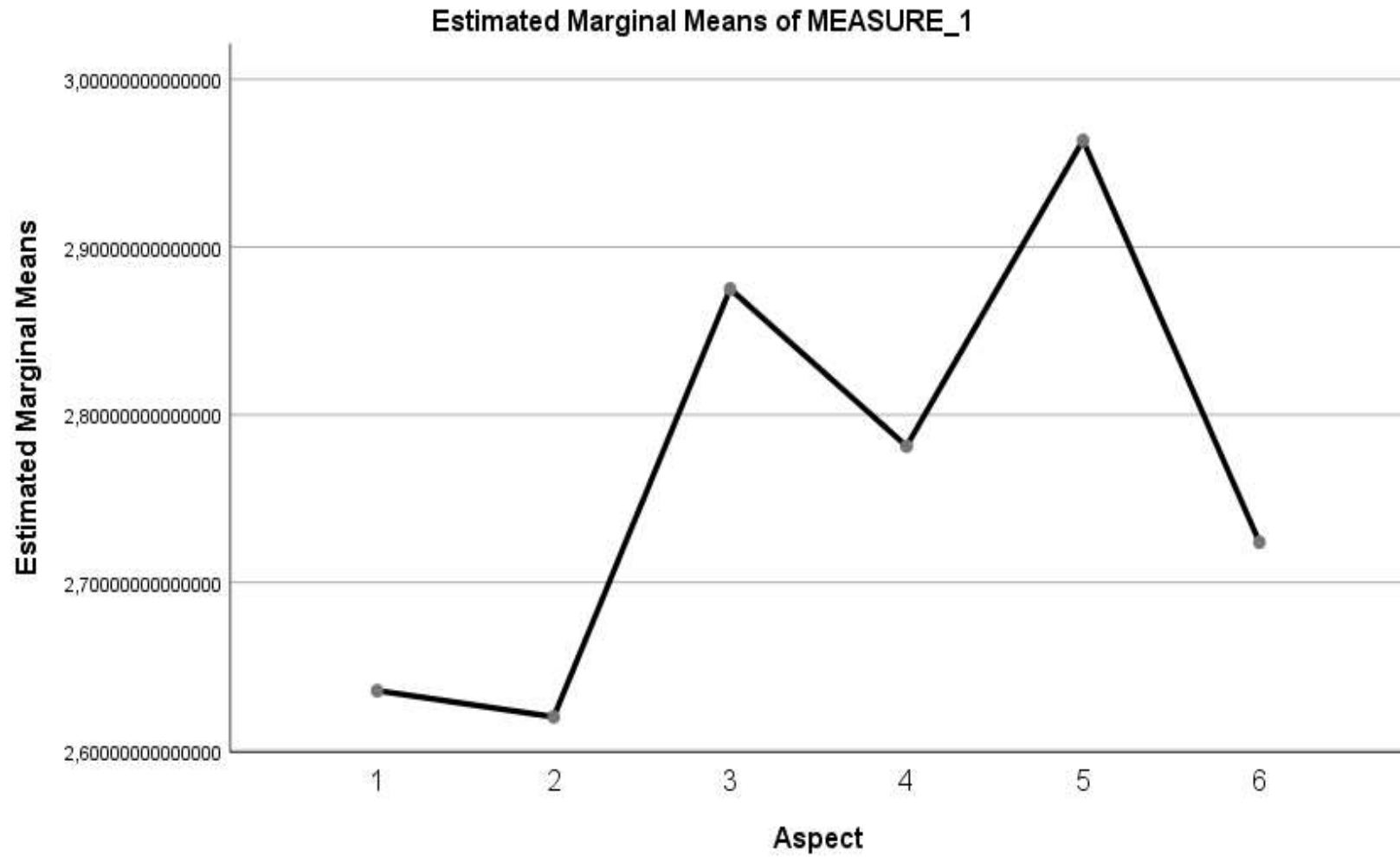
Response times: Tests of Within-Subjects Contrasts

Source	Aspect	Type III Sum of Squares	df	Mean Square	F	Sig.	Partial Eta Squared
Aspect	Level 2 vs. Level 1	26488,347	1	26488,347	,010	,920	,000
	Level 3 vs. Level 1	16075158,758	1	16075158,758	8,231	,007	,210
	Level 4 vs. Level 1	10843824,500	1	10843824,500	6,178	,019	,166
	Level 5 vs. Level 1	34710417,670	1	34710417,670	13,995	,001	,311
	Level 6 vs. Level 1	19887810,563	1	19887810,563	10,611	,003	,255

Answers: Mean and SD

	Mean	Std. Deviation	N
1. Implicative verbs	2,63	,306	32
2. Implicative verbs (cont)	2,61	,268	32
3. Factive verbs	2,87	,235	32
4. Change of state verbs	2,78	,279	32
5. Definite descriptions	2,96	,109	32
6. Con. implicatures	2,72	,263	32

Answers:



Answers: Tests of Within-Subjects Effects

Source		Type III Sum of Squares	df	Mean Square	F	Sig.	Partial Eta Squared
Aspect	Sphericity Assumed	2,923	5	,585	9,303	,000	,231
	Greenhouse-Geisser	2,923	4,026	,726	9,303	,000	,231
	Huynh-Feldt	2,923	4,702	,622	9,303	,000	,231
	Lower-bound	2,923	1,000	2,923	9,303	,005	,231

$F(5,155) = 9,303; p < 0.001; \eta^2 = 0,231$

Answers: Tests of Within-Subjects Contrasts

Source	Aspect	Type III Sum of Squares	df	Mean Square	F	Sig.	Partial Eta Squared
Aspect	Level 2 vs. Level 1	,008	1	,008	,058	,812	,002
	Level 3 vs. Level 1	1,837	1	1,837	11,656	,002	,273
	Level 4 vs. Level 1	,681	1	,681	3,661	,065	,106
	Level 5 vs. Level 1	3,446	1	3,446	31,785	,000	,506
	Level 6 vs. Level 1	,251	1	,251	1,459	,236	,045

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