

Processing standard and non-standard projective implications

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INTRODUCTION

Levinson (1983) based on Grice's analysis of A-cases and C-cases:

STANDARD CONVERSATIONAL IMPLICATURES

arise when the speaker is **observing** the conversational maxims

NON-STANDARD CONVERSATIONAL IMPLICATURES

arise when the speaker is **exploiting** the conversational maxims

Kasjanowicz (2021) based on the above:

STANDARD PROJECTIVE IMPLICATION

arise when the speaker is **observing** the rules governing the use of projective content triggers

NON-STANDARD PROJECTIVE IMPLICATION

arise when the speaker is **exploiting** the rules governing the use of projective content triggers

What rules governing the use of projective content?

The rules of appropriateness for this content!

The projective content should be **not-at-issue** relevant to the current question under discussion. Therefore, the hearer does not have to accommodate it in order to compute **i)** the propositional content of an utterance and **ii)** the conversational implicatures that arise from it. When the projective content is **at-issue**, it can give rise to conversational implicatures and it involves **exploitation** of the rules of appropriateness.

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STUDY

Participants: Thirty native speakers of Polish; women and men; age: 16-59, students from University of Szczecin, students from high school and high schools teachers.

Methods: The study was conducted online using Open Sesame software and JATOS server. We created 9 experimental sets, each containing 2 context sentences and two target sentences. Target sentences were presented word-by-word with each of the context sentences; reading time was measured on-line. After reading each context sentence – target sentence pair, participants were asked questions to ensure that they processed the semantic content of the sentences.

Experimental sentences: Each experimental set contained four context sentence – target sentence pairs. Target sentences contained either projective content trigger words or neutral, semantically acceptable words in the same positions. Target sentences were presented either with standard or non-standard context sentence. Three types of projective trigger were used in the experiment: change of state verbs, factive verbs and implicative verbs

STANDARD CONTEXT:

Context sentence: Peter has a lot of responsibilities, he has to give up some of them and stay with others. Anna asks: what is Peter's decision?

NON-STANDARD CONTEXT:

Context sentence: It turns out that Peter communicates perfectly with foreigners on the trip. Anna asks: did Peter learn any foreign language before?

TARGET (the same for both contexts):

- a** Target with **projective content**: He **continues** to learn English *Kontynuuje naukę angielskiego*
- b** Target with **neutral word**: He **postulated** to learn English. *Postulował naukę angielskiego*

In the first set, the target sentence „Peter learnt English before” is **not-at-issue**, thus this is **standard** use of triggering word „continues”.

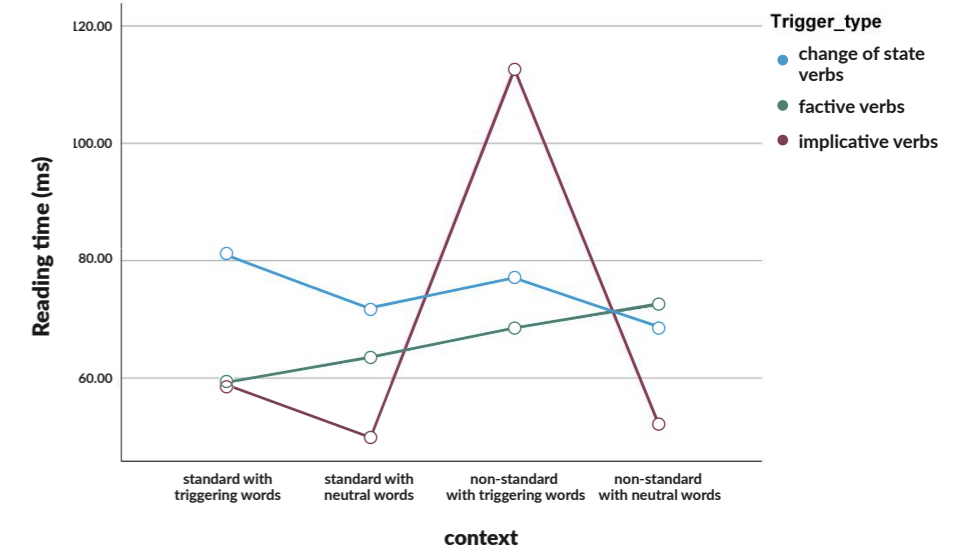
In the second set, the target sentence „Peter learnt English before” is **at-issue**, because this content gives rise to conversational implicatures which is answer to the Anna's question, thus this is **non-standard** use of

Assumptions:

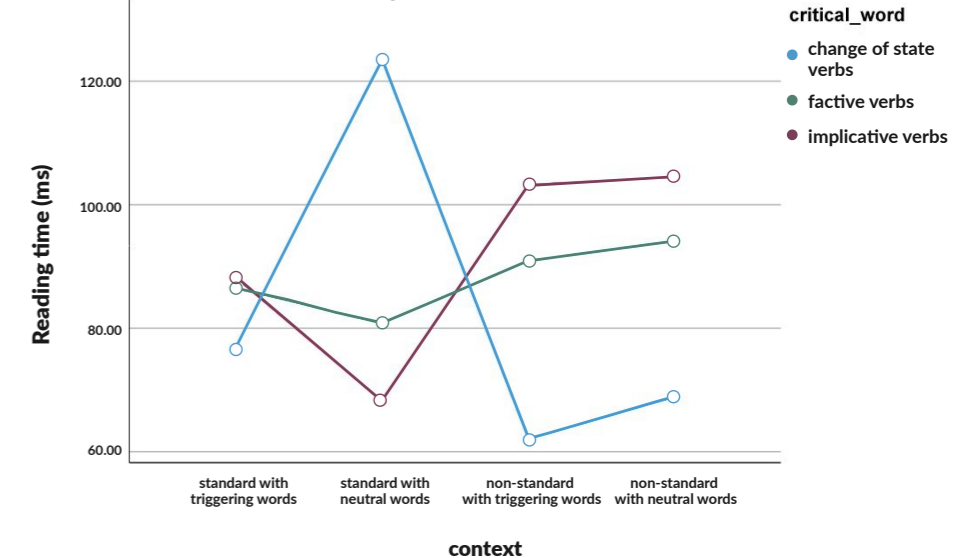
- In case of standard and non-standard projective implications the reading time of the trigger words should be longer than the reading time of neutral words.
- In case of critical words – i.e., words that allow the hearers to establish the content of projective implications – reading time should be longer in cases of non-standard projective implications, because these contents play a key role in the speakers' communicative plans.

RESULTS

Reading time of the triggering words



Reading time of the critical words



CONCLUSION

The observed differences in reading times were not significant, therefore there is a need for further studies to explore triggers behavior in non-standard contexts. However, there is possibility that results can partially be explained using an action-based solution to the triggering problem (Witek 2021) in which projective content of an utterance is determined by the structure of the action to which the utterance corresponds. In case of the same projective words, as the general structure of the action is the same, reading times (which could indicate processing cost) could be the same.