

**ANAPHORA RESOLUTION AND REANALYSIS DURING L2 ENGLISH
PROCESSING. A REPLICATION STUDY USING THE
VISUAL WORLD PARADIGM**

Rabanal-Álvarez, Jesús & Lozano, Cristóbal

Universidad de Granada

jesusrabanal@correo.ugr.es

Abstract

This bachelor's thesis project focuses on second language acquisition and anaphora resolution and the objective is to design a psycholinguistic experiment to investigate how advanced L1 Spanish-L2 English bilinguals process anaphora resolution. The study replicates the methodology of Cunnings et al. (2017) with modifications in the participants' native language and addresses limitations observed in previous research. Eye-tracking methodology, specifically the visual world paradigm, will be employed. The hypotheses are based on English's bias towards subject preference in anaphoric pronouns. An example of the experimental sentences and their hypotheses are (1) and (2).

(1) **Mr. Smith / Mrs. Jones** found **Peter** at the bus stop. Immediately afterwards **he** bought a couple of **tickets**.

- a. Hypothesis (1): If the subject is (**Mr. Smith**), we predict that the participant will have some fixations towards the subject but when he hears the pronoun (**he**) there will be an equal amount of fixations towards the object and the subject and at the end the noun (**tickets**) will resolve the ambiguity as the object (**Peter**) will be the one holding them.

(2) **Peter** found **Mr. Smith / Mrs. Jones** at the bus stop. Immediately afterwards **he** bought a couple of tickets.

- a. Hypothesis (1): If the subject is (**Peter**), we predict that the participant will have some fixations towards the subject but when he hears the pronoun (**he**) there will be an equal amount of fixations towards both the object and the subject and at the end the noun (**tickets**) will resolve the ambiguity as the subject (**Peter**) will be the one holding them.

We also introduced a comprehension question after each trial, following Cunnings et al. approach, to see whether the participants had understood the sentence.

The data collected from participants (n = 12) in the experiment, who are bilinguals with a self-reported high proficiency level (B2 – C1), will be disclosed during this presentation. Additionally, we will utilise the English control group from Cunnings' experiment to contrast the subject preference of the native speakers with the processing of the learners. It is expected that the participants will adopt the processing strategy of native English speakers and demonstrate preferences for subject resolution while processing in English.

This study aims to provide valuable insights to the field of second language acquisition and bilingualism, specifically in L2 anaphora resolution processing.

Keywords: eye tracking, anaphora resolution, reanalysis, second language acquisition.

References

- Cunnings, I., Fotiadou, G., & Tsimpli, I. (2017). ANAPHORA RESOLUTION AND REANALYSIS DURING L2 SENTENCE PROCESSING: Evidence from the Visual World Paradigm. *Studies in Second Language Acquisition*, 39(4), 621–652.
<https://doi.org/10.1017/S0272263116000292>
- Conklin, K., & Pellicer-Sánchez, A. (2016). Using eye-tracking in applied linguistics and second language research. *Second Language Research*, 32(3), 453–467.
<https://doi.org/10.1177/0267658316637401>
- Dussias, P.E., Kroff, J.V., Gerfen, C. (2013). Visual world eye-tracking. In J. Jegerski & B. VanPatten (Eds.), *Research Methods in Second Language Psycholinguistics* (pp. 93–126). Routledge.