

Adjective Ordering

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Abstract

Here is the abstract

1 Introduction

Background on adjective ordering preferences

1.1 English

1.2 Cross-linguistic stability

2 Corpus work

3 Experiments

3.1 Ordering preferences

3.1.1 Participants

We recruited 50 participants through Amazon.com’s Mechanical Turk crowd-sourcing service. Participants were compensated for their participation.

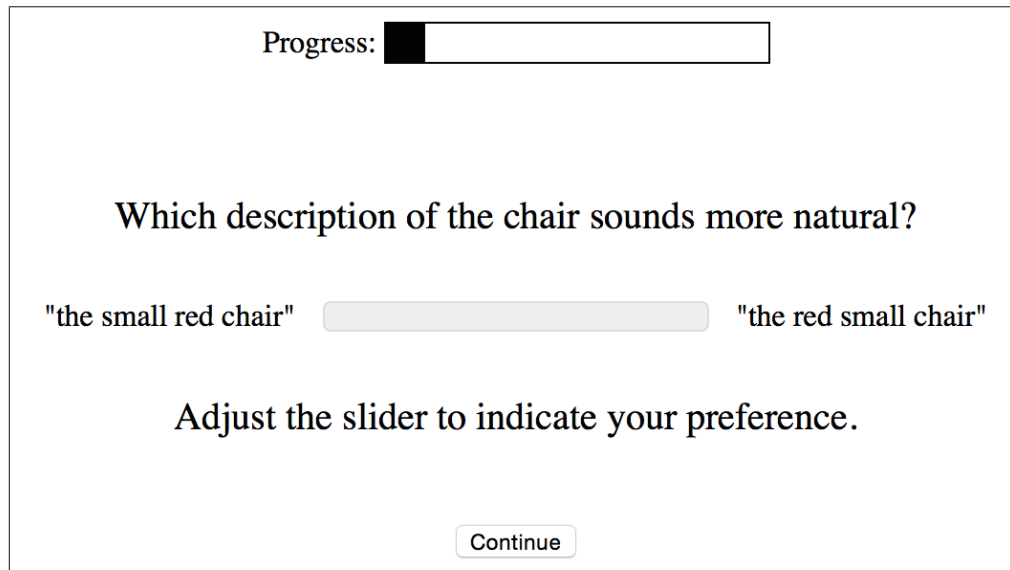
3.1.2 Design and methods


Participants were asked to decide which of two object descriptions sounded more natural. Each description featured a noun modified by two adjectives, for example “the red small chair” or “the small red chair”. Description pairs contained the same words, with relative adjective order reversed. Descriptions were random combinations of two adjectives and a noun from the list in Table 1, with the constraint that no description contained adjectives from the same adjective class.

On each trial, participants indicated which description sounded more natural by adjusting a slider whose endpoints were labeled with the competing descriptions (Fig. 1)

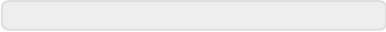
Table 1: Adjectives and nouns used in experimental stimuli.

ADJECTIVE	CLASS	NOUN	CLASS
red	color	apple	food
yellow	color	banana	food
green	color	carrot	food
blue	color	cheese	food
purple	color	tomato	food
brown	color	chair	furniture
big	size	couch	furniture
small	size	fan	furniture
huge	size	TV	furniture
tiny	size	desk	furniture
short	size		
long	size		
wooden	material		
plastic	material		
metal	material		
smooth	texture		
hard	texture		
soft	texture		
old	age		
new	age		
rotten	age		
fresh	age		
good	quality		
bad	quality		
round	shape		
square	shape		



Progress: 

Which description of the chair sounds more natural?

"the small red chair"  "the red small chair"

Adjust the slider to indicate your preference.

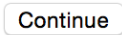


Figure 1: Example trial from Expt. 1; participants chose the more natural of two adjective-adjective-noun descriptions, which differed in the relative ordering of the two adjectives.

3.1.3 Predictions

3.1.4 Results

3.1.5 Discussion

3.2 Faultless disagreement

3.2.1 Participants

3.2.2 Design and methods

3.2.3 Predictions

3.2.4 Results

3.2.5 Discussion

3.3 Predicting ordering preferences with faultless disagreement

4 Possible accounts

4.1 Memory

Forgetting account

4.2 Syntax

John Beavers spray/load work

4.3 UID

Different notions of informativity

4.4 Flexibility

Blue is less subjective so I rarely speak of “blue for X”, whereas more subjective and flexible *good* is often spoken of in terms of “good for Y”.

5 General discussion