

October 9, 2017

Dear Editorial Board,

Please find attached a copy of our manuscript, "On the grammatical source of adjective ordering preferences." This manuscript is our original work, has not been previously published, and is not currently under consideration elsewhere. We would appreciate your considering it for publication as remarks in *Semantics and Pragmatics*.

This work continues our investigation of the psychological underpinnings of adjective ordering preferences, which determine the order of adjectives in multi-adjective strings. These preferences are remarkably stable both within and across the world's languages, suggesting that they emerge from deep principles of the cognitive architecture that shapes language. However, to date, they remain poorly understood. In recent behavioral and corpus work published in *Open Mind*, we demonstrated the success of adjective subjectivity in predicting ordering preferences. The current work builds on these findings with a proposal for how adjective subjectivity interacts with the hierarchical structure of modification and pressures from successful reference resolution to deliver the observed preferences. We believe this work will have broad appeal, as it evidences a clear case where language universals (i.e., the regularities we observe in adjective ordering) emerge from the interaction of cognitive universals (i.e., the subjectivity of the properties that the adjectives name) with properties of grammar (i.e., the hierarchical structure of modification).

Eva Wittenberg (UC San Diego), Edward Gibson (Massachusetts Institute of Technology), Beth Levin (Stanford), Chris Kennedy (University of Chicago), Andy Kehler (UC San Diego), and Hannah Rohde (University of Edinburgh) have worked on linguistic and/or cognitive universals, and have either used similar methods to ours or have expertise in investigations of adjectives. They are all qualified to review this work.

Please let us know if you require additional information.

Sincerely,

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