Summaries

# steinhauer1999brain

Written garden path sentences are interpreted syntax-first, but auditory info (i.e., prosody) gives a reliable cue to differentiate ambiguous syntactic structures. Prosodic info influences decisions about syntactic structure at very early stages.

Initial syntactic misanalysis in both written & spoken = P600 (~500-1200 ms, “syntactic positive shift”)

Fig 2: Closure positive shift associated with the right side of intonational phrase boundaries (but not the final boundary?)

# steinhauer2003electrophysiological

Connolly & Phillips (1994): Phonological mismatch negativity for sentence terminal words that differed phonologically from the expected target word.

CPS found for commas, although smaller than auditory stimuli. Those that used commas more paid attention to commas more & performed better on sentence comprehension. Those who didn’t use commas displayed no CPS component in ERPs! People that pay more attention to commas activate “implicit prosody” when reading.