

The importance of negative alternatives in pragmatic implicature

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Abstract

Frameworks of pragmatic enrichment, starting with Grice 1975, implicitly assume the presence of salient alternatives. For example, the standard quantity implicature arises the presence of a competing and more informative alternatives. Using a Bayesian formulation of this theory we assess the degree to which alternatives influence pragmatic enrichment of scalar items. Our findings suggest that the presence of a complete set of possible alternatives.

Keywords: pragmatics; scalar implicature; bayesian modeling

Introduction

Implicature as a case study for pragmatics

RSA as a way of studying implicature (???)

Scalar implicature in particular, what are the alternatives?

(???) (???)

Using the scalar diversity approach to get beyond the some/all implicature (???)

Outline of the rest of the paper

Experiment 1a,b: Entailment scales

Participants

Procedure

Results and Discussion

Experiment 2: What are the alternatives?

Participants

Procedure

Results and Discussion

Experiment 3a,b: Adding Negative alternatives

Participants

Procedure

Results and Discussion

Model

Details

Model fitting and comparison

General Discussion

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References