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Chang et al. **Structural Priming as Implicit Learning: A Comparison of Models of Sentence Production.**

This paper presents a study showing evidence for *structural priming*, that is, the fact that recently heard sentence structures—independent of content—are likely to be used again. The experimenters created a model that showed slightly better priming effects than previous models. They believed that the model was superior because of one crucial aspect, however: it exhibited locative-to-passive priming[1]. The model used comprehension to guide production of future sentences, and incorporated nonatomic message roles.

The use of nonatomic message roles seems to be the most significant result of this study; that is, the usage of (Source, Theme, Goal) instead of (Agent, Patient, Goal, Location, ...). This is just lifting one level of meaning out of structure, adding a level of indirection, as it were. This gave much better results than atomic message roles, which are more tightly coupled to sentence structure. Is there another level of indirection that can be abstracted out?

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[1]Priming from "dogs are walking" to "cats are chased".