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Editorial Board

Cognitive Psychology

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Dear Editors,

This submission contains the manuscript “Inferring word meanings by assuming that speakers are informative,” which I am submitting with my coauthor Noah D. Goodman.

Our manuscript reports a model of the use of pragmatic assumptions in word learning and a set of three experiments with adults and children that test this model. We are submitting to Cognitive Psychology because we believe that the mixture of theoretical and empirical work here represents an important and useful advance in the study of pragmatics and child language. Most notably, our work provides a quantitative framework within which to consider earlier claims about the use of “informativeness” in early language learning. This framework helps to link situations in language acquisition to a broader set of theories, models, and experiments on pragmatic language use in context, potentially elucidating mechanisms by which children’s language learning is linked to adults’ language use.

Our data have not been published before and the manuscript is not under consideration for publication in any other venue. Please let me know if there is any further information you need in connection with this submission. I look forward to hearing from you regarding the manuscript.

Sincerely,



Michael C. Frank

Assistant Professor of Psychology

Stanford University