July XX, 2019

Dear Editorial Board,

Please find attached a copy of our manuscript, "I know what you're probably going to say: Listener adaptation to variable use of uncertainty expressions." 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 a research article in Cognition.

This work investigates the cognitive processes of semantic/pragmatic adaptation through a series of experiments and computational modeling. Listener adaptation to differences in their interlocutors’ language is a widely attested phenomenon but at the level of semantics and pragmatics, it remained an open question what kind of representations listeners update when they adapt to a specific speaker. To answer this question, we conducted adaptation experiments in the domain of uncertainty expressions and implemented a model within the Rational Speech Act framework which models production expectations and interpretations of uncertainty expressions. We used this model to simulate the adaptation process and found that the simulations in which both the semantic representations and production preferences are updated provide qualitatively and quantitatively accurate predictions of participants’ post-adaptation behavior from three experiments, which suggests that adaptation is a result of listeners updating both of these representations. We conclude with a discussion of the implications of our findings for interactive language processing accounts and the accounts of the semantic representation of uncertainty expressions.

Michael Franke (University of Osnabrück), Roger Levy (MIT), Timo Roettger (Northwestern University), and Dave Kleinschmidt (Rutgers University) have worked on linguistic adaptation and/or uncertainty expressions, and have used similar methods to ours. They are all qualified to review this work.

Please let us know if you require additional information.

Sincerely,

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