

# The Perception and Access of Written Silence

Ihze Doul  
ihzedoul@umich.edu

## **Abstract**

It has been demonstrated that auditory silence can be perceived the same way as we consciously perceive sound. This paper proposes that similarly, written silence can be perceived the same way as we consciously perceive semantic information. Through a participant-directed introspective method, this paper shows that the absence of semantic cues from a phenomenal field in which semantic information is expected can induce involuntary conscious access, instantiated in pragmatic inference based on preceding context.

## **Main Content**

(The Above Section Was Intentionally Left Blank)

## **References**

Ephratt, M. (2008). The functions of silence. *Journal of Pragmatics*, 40(11), 1909-1938.

Goh, R. Z., Phillips, I. B., & Firestone, C. (2023). The perception of silence. *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences of the United States of America*, 120(29), e2301463120.

Michel, M. (2017). Methodological artefacts in consciousness science. *Journal of Consciousness Studies*, 24(11-12), 94-117.

## **Acknowledgement**

The author thanks Coris Karaoke Ramune Candy (15g) for its invaluable contribution to the writing process of this paper.