

When do we plan agreement in our speech?

Case from agreement attraction in unaccusatives

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(1) *The **key** **were** rusty.



(2) *The *key* to the *cells* *were* rusty.



+ SG

+ *PL*

+ PL

(2) *The **key** to the *cells* **were** rusty.



Planning sentences?



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Uhhhh... Utku... the snail...



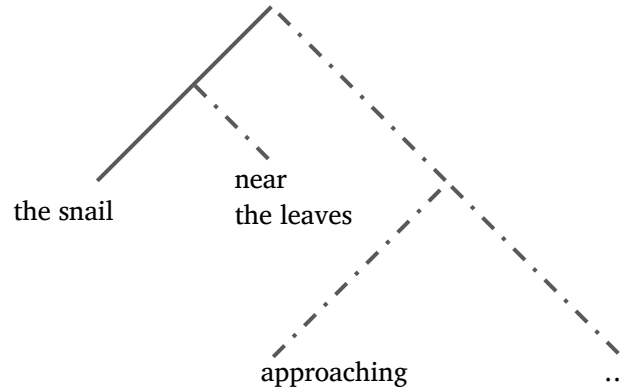
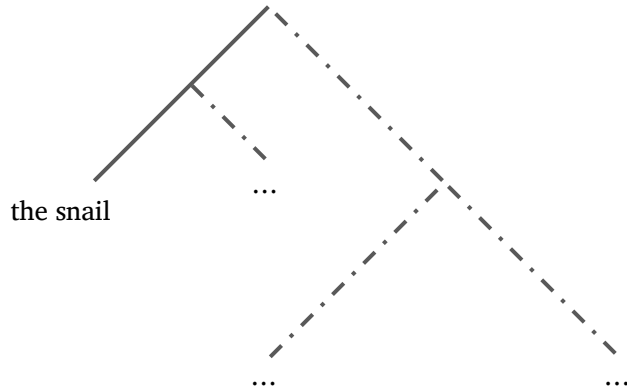
The scope of planning

- What information do speakers tend to encode first?
- “Uhh... Utku... the snail...”



The scope of planning

- What information do speakers tend to encode first?
- Remember the “Uhh... Utku... the snail...”
- Did you just plan “the snail” or you also planned “near the leaves” or “approaching”?



Planning sentences?

- No real consensus on what has to be planned before an utterance.



Planning sentences?

- No real consensus on what has to be planned before an utterance.
- What people agree is
 - Speakers filter *message* into a *preverbal message*
 - *Preverbal message* is chunked into smaller units
 - *Formulator* transform conceptual information to syntactic objects
 - *Articulator* maps *formulator* outputs to the motor behavior



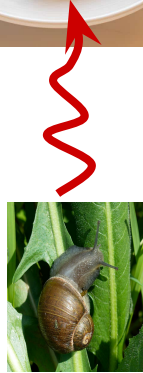
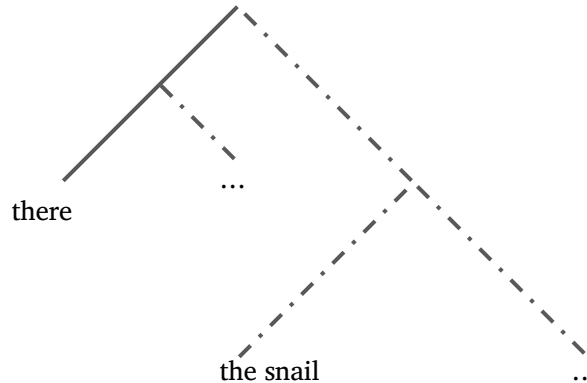
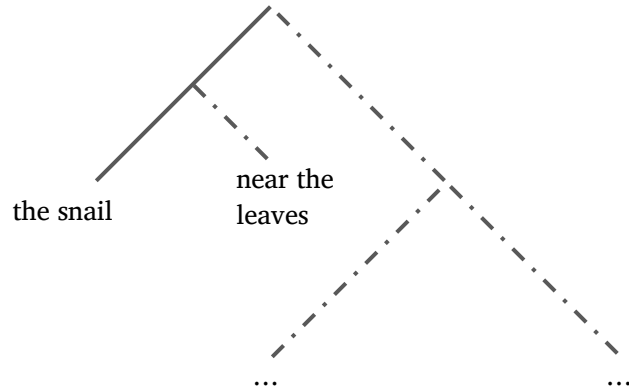
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- **Some of these steps can happen in parallel!!!**



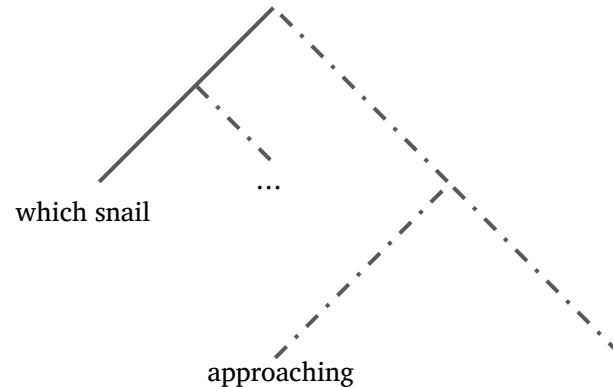
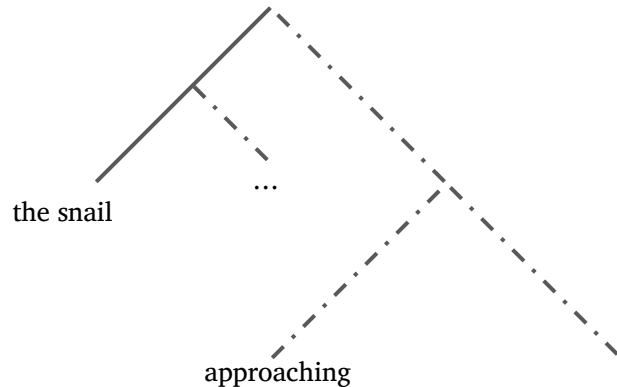
The scope of planning: Linearly?

- What can come next?
- *Linearity governs the scope of chunks.*
Units of planning follows from the linear order.
Selection of lexical items governs the possible syntactic structures



The scope of planning: Structurally?

- Can far-away stuff come next?
- *Structural relations governs the scope of chunks.*
Units of planning follows from the syntactic knowledge of the speakers.
Elements participating in long distance dependencies can be planned together.



The scope of planning

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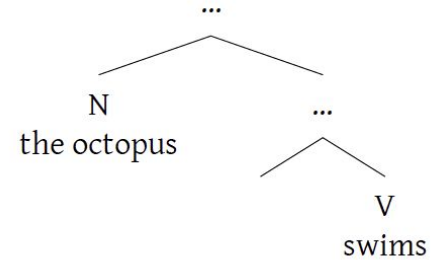
They utilized the idea that people slow down in speech when they see a word that is semantically related to what they are planning.



Some verbs are planned after modifiers!

Target sentence:

(3) *The octopus under the spoon is swimming*

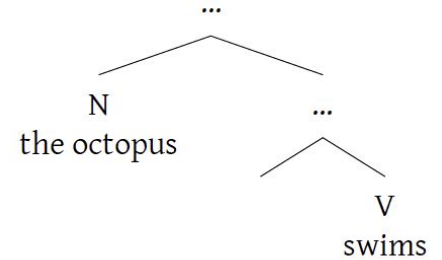


Some verbs are planned **after** modifiers!

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(3) *The octopus under the spoon is swimming*

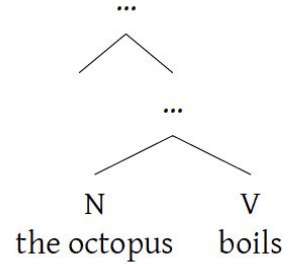
No effect of semantic relatedness.



Some verbs are planned **before** some modifiers!

Target sentence:

(4) *The octopus under the lemon is boiling*

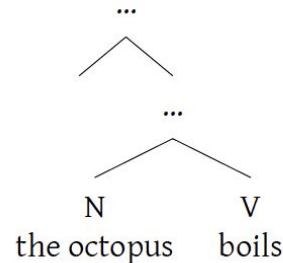


Some verbs are planned **before** some modifiers!

Target sentence:

(4) *The octopus under the lemon is boiling*

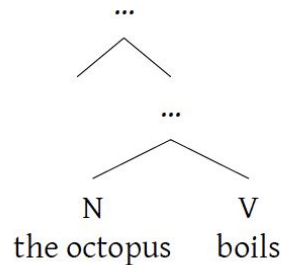
Speakers take more time to begin the utterance in related conditions.



Some verbs are **definitely planned** before some modifiers!

Target sentence:

(5) *The octopus under the lemon is boiling*

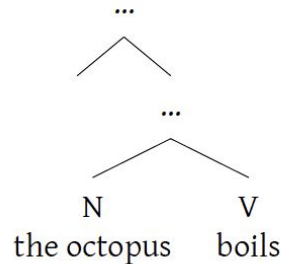


Some verbs are **definitely planned** before some modifiers!

Target sentence:

(5) *The octopus under the lemon is boiling*

No effect of semantic relatedness.



(6) *The **key** to the *cells* **were** rusty.

+ SG

+ PL

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(6) *The **key** to the *cells* **were** rusty.

+ SG

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(7) *The **octopus** under the *spoons* **are** swimming.

(7) *The ^{+ SG}octopus under the ^{+ PL}spoons ^{+ PL}are swimming.

(8) *The ^{+ SG}octopus under the ^{+ PL}lemons ^{+ PL}are boiling.

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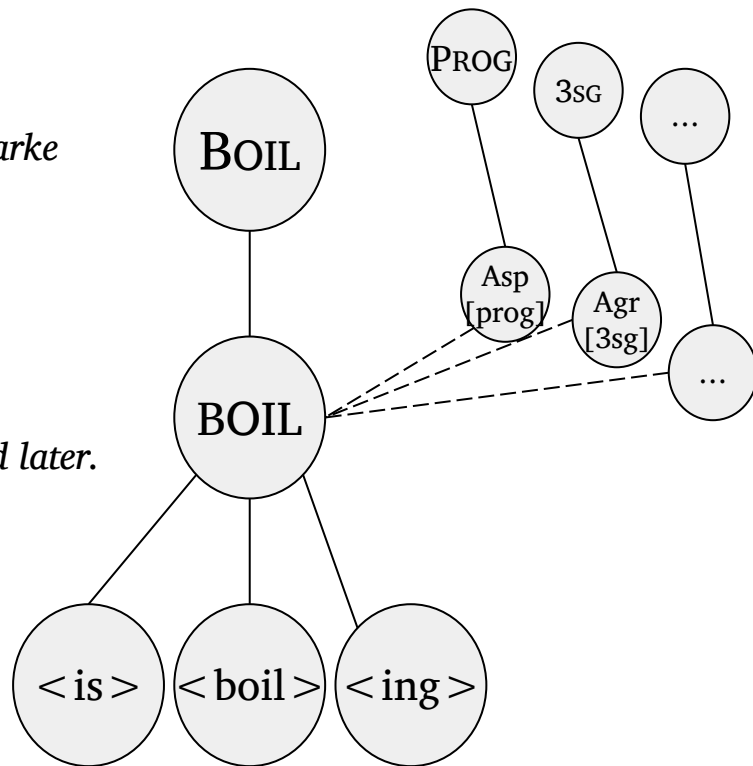
The time course and representation of agreement

“Lemma” centric model of production (Levelt et al. 1999)

Against our theoretical understanding (Halle & Marantz 1993, Starke 2009, Bye & Svenonius 2012, Embick et al. 2022)

Questioned by many in experimental research but no direct counter-evidence! (Garrett 1975, Caramazza & Miozzo 1997)

We also have evidence from nonce verbs that agreement is planned later. (Kandel & Phillips 2022)



The time course of agreement: Hypotheses

Eager Agreement

+ SG



PL

(8) *The **octopus** under the *lemons* **are** boiling.

Needed Agreement

+ SG

+ PL

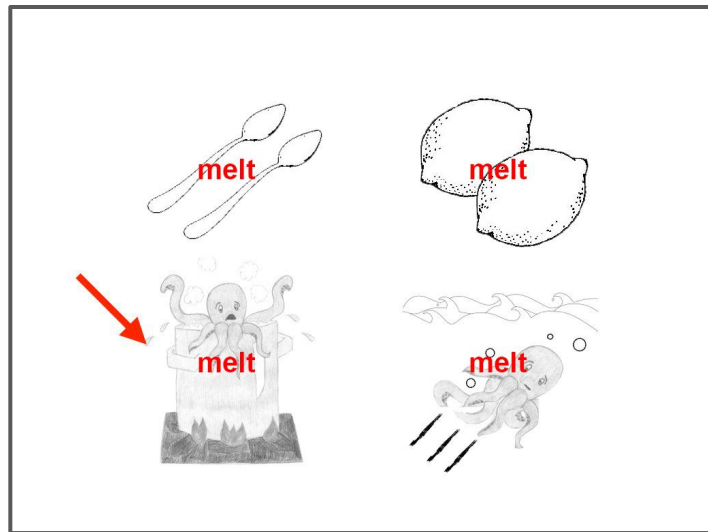


PL

(8) *The **octopus** under the *lemons* **are** boiling.

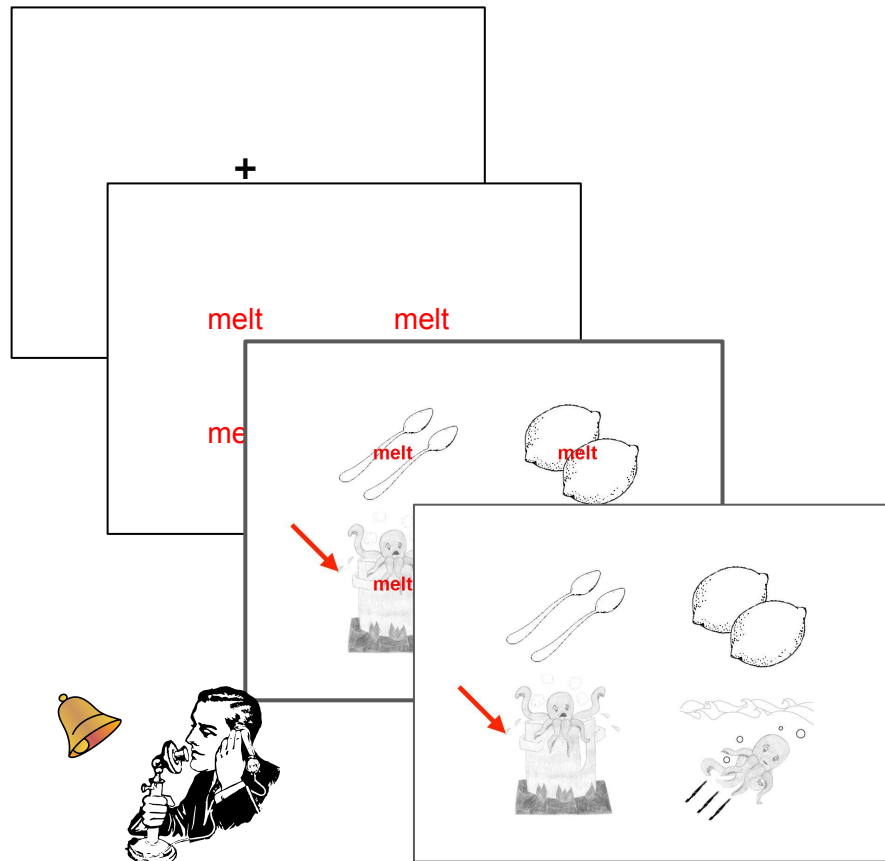
Our study: Materials

- Similar to Momma & Ferreira (2019)
 - Verb type (2: unacc x unerg)
 - Relatedness (2: related x unrelated)
- Unlike Momma & Ferreira (2019)
 - Only had verbal distractors (similar to their Exp5)
 - Object number (2: PL x SG)
- 12 scenes x 2 x 2 x 2 = 96 experimental trials
- + 6 control scenes x 2 x 2 x 2 = +48 control trials



Our study: Procedure

- Distractors come 150ms before
- Prompted to utter sentence with pictures
- 5 seconds to utter sentence
- Repeated measures
 - o Participants saw all conditions (144 trials)
- PCIBex (unlike Momma & Ferreira 2019)

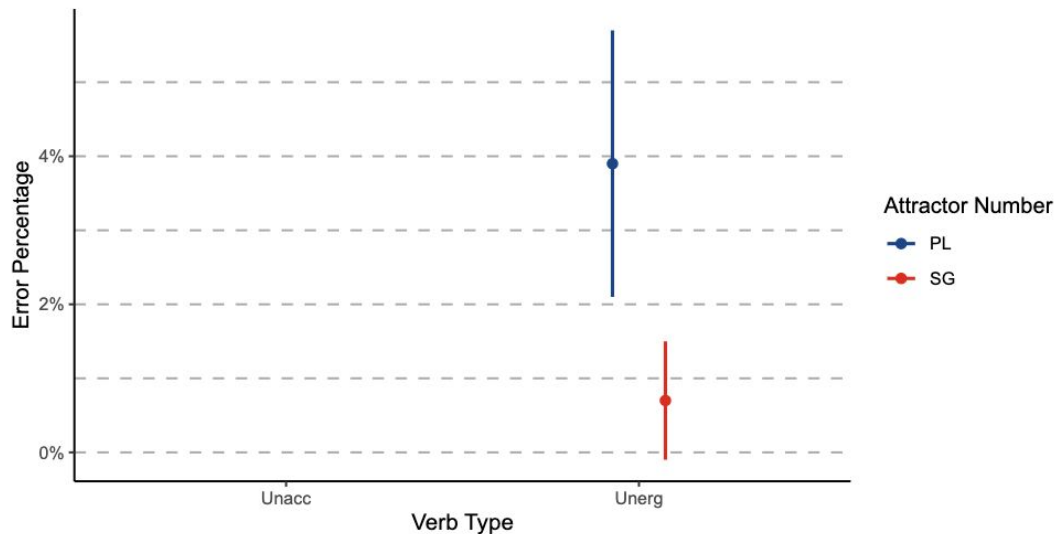


Our study: Results

Clear attraction effect in unergative sentences:

more agreement errors when there is an additional plural noun nearby.

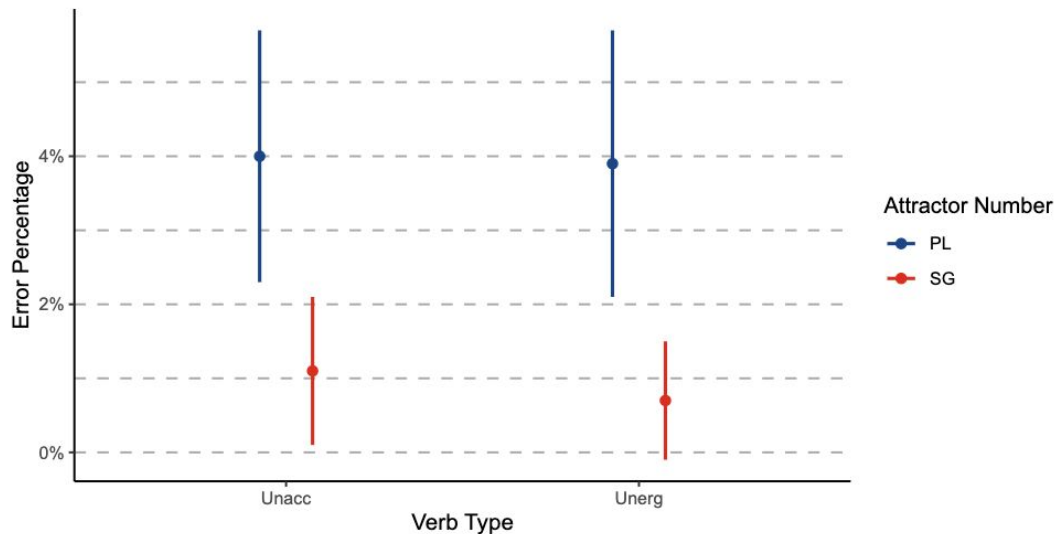
Magnitude-wise smaller attraction effects, but still comparable



Our study: Results

Comparable attraction errors in unaccusative sentences.

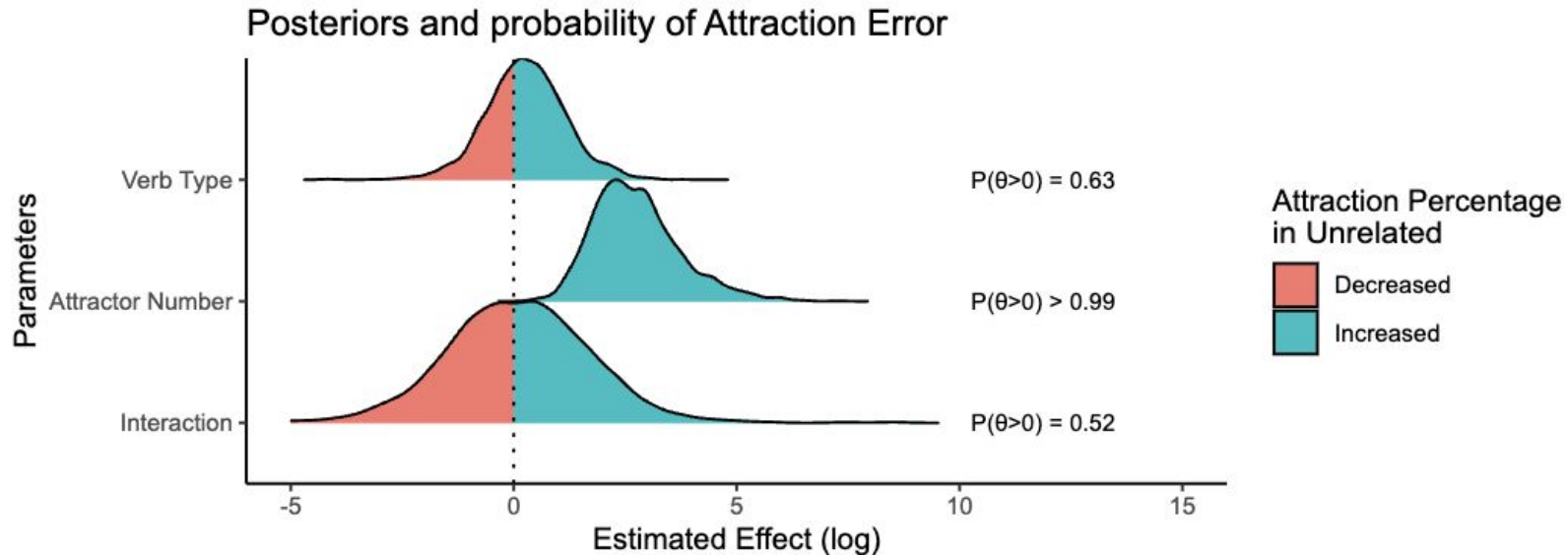
If agreement was planned eagerly, as soon as verb is planned, we would expect to see no attraction in unaccusative sentences!



Bayesian Model

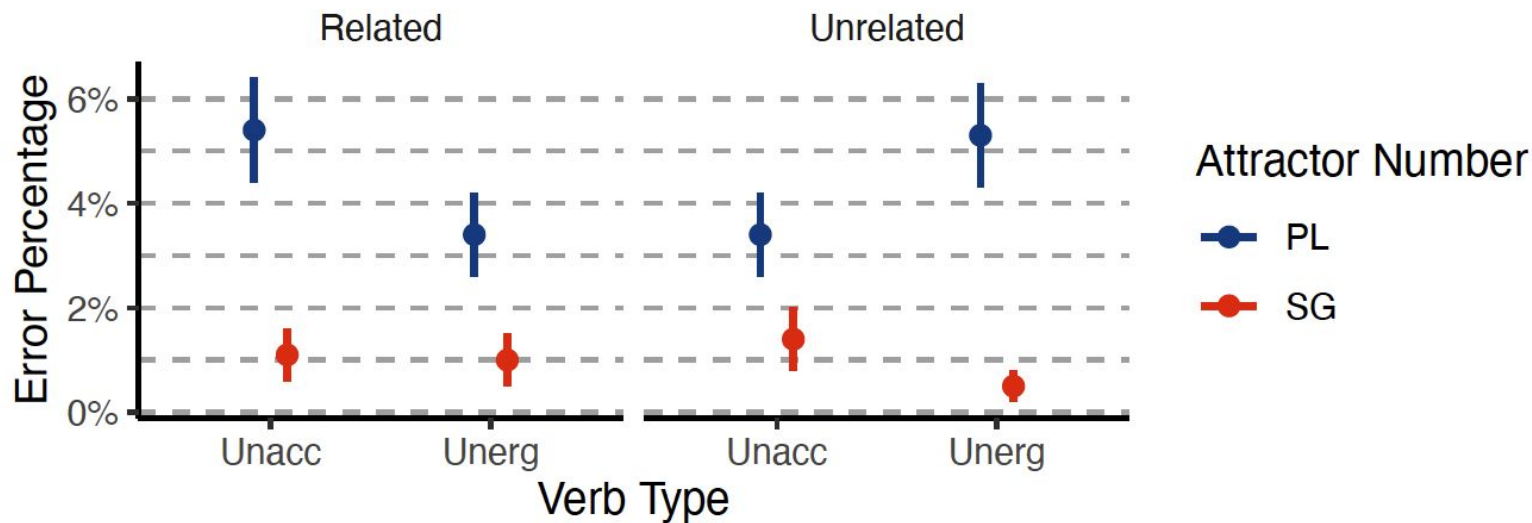
Bayesian models verified our results:

No interaction between verb type and the attractor number.



Our study: Results

We also see a cognitive load effect. It is affected the verb relatedness.
But still the pattern is comparable between verb types.



When do we plan the agreement in our speech?

- ❖ Agreement seems to be planned when it needs to be uttered, independent of its host.
- ❖ These results align with theoretical and experimental considerations for independence of morphological processes.
- ❖ What was snail doing there? Slowly discovering.
- ❖ Next: Why attenuated attraction? Investigate Relatedness/Verb effect.



Selected References

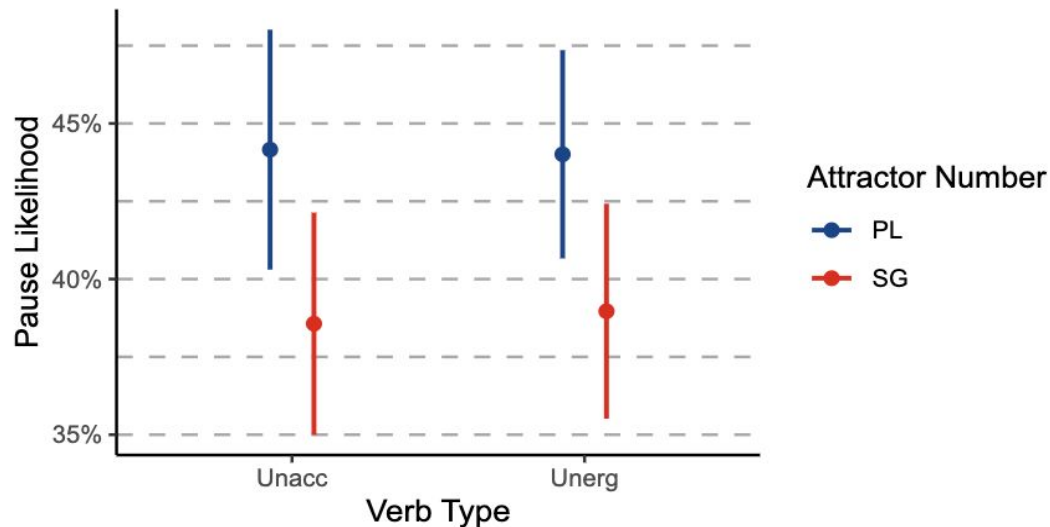
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Timing Results

Compared to Kandel & Phillips (2022) we saw increased pause likelihood on average.

There were still a suggestion of participants pausing more often to utter the verb when the nouns have mismatched numbers in unergative sentences.

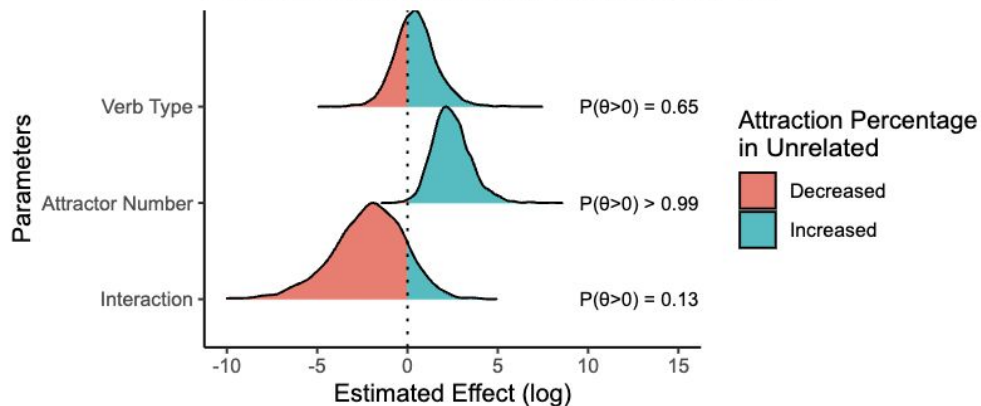
Comparable results were also visible in unaccusative sentences, suggesting a similar planning process right before the verb.



Models?

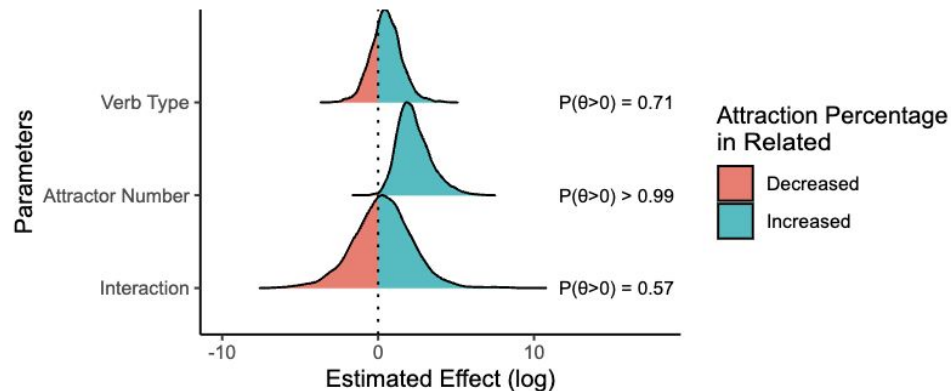
Unrelated

Posteriors and probability of Attraction Error

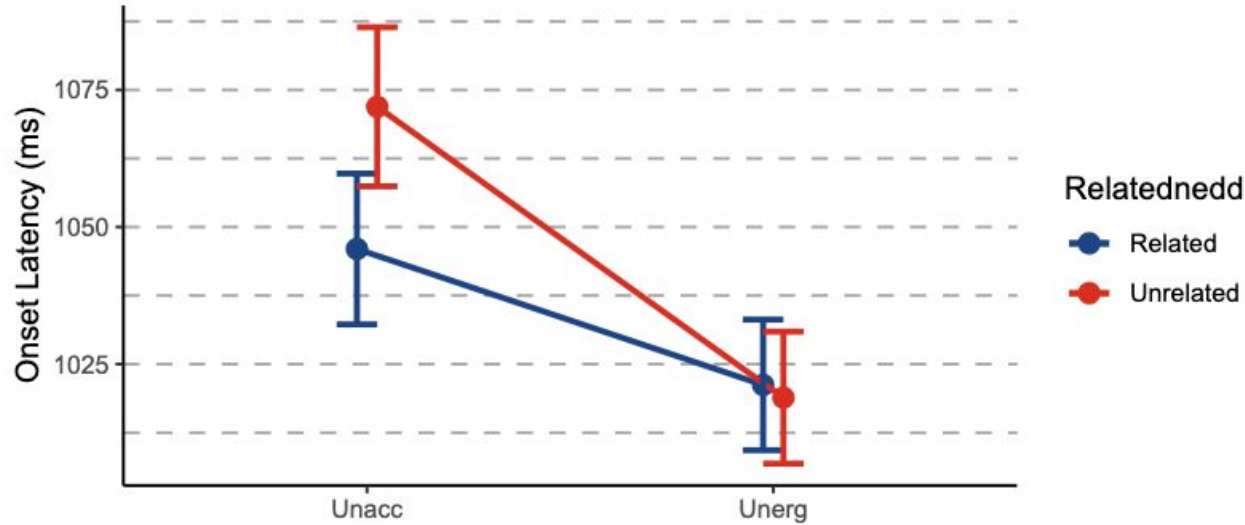


Related

Posteriors and probability of Attraction Error



Verb Planning in our experiment



Evidence of early planning for unaccusatives.