CONTENTS

Contributors xiii
Acknowledgments xvii

From Alexander to Wilhelm von Humboldt: A Crosslinguistic Perspective
DIETER HILBERT
1. Introduction 1
2. Word Recognition 3
3. Fixed Expressions 5
4. Grammatical Constraints 7
5. Empty Categories 8
6. Parsing 9
7. Conclusion 9
   References 10

Lexical Ambiguity Resolution: Languages, Tasks, and Timing
KATHLEEN V. AHRENS
1. Introduction 11
2. Context-Dependent and Context-Independent Models 12
3. Natural Speech Comprehension 14
4. Language-Driven Differences 17
5. Experiment: Lexical Ambiguity Resolution in Mandarin Chinese 19
6. Conclusion 27
   References 29
Crosslinguistic Variation and Sentence Processing: The Case of Chinese

Ping Li

1. Introduction 33
2. Experiment 1: Sentence Interpretation 36
3. Experiment 2: Sentence Gating 40
4. Experiment 3: Cross-Modal Naming 44
5. Experiment 4: Word Gating 46
6. General Discussion 49
   References 51

Comprehension Repair in the Processing of a Short Oral Discourse Involving a Lexically Ambiguous Word

Giyoo Hatano and Keiko Kuhara-Kojima

1. Strategies for Reducing Lexical Ambiguity 56
2. Repairing Comprehension: Experiment 1 57
3. Recognizing Incongruity and Revising the Initial Construal: Experiment 2 64
4. Economy of Listeners’ Repair Strategies 67
   References 68

Ambiguity of Reanalysis in Parsing Complex Sentences in Japanese

Yuki Hirose and Atsu Inoue

1. Introduction 71
2. Easy versus Difficult Reanalysis 72
3. Previous Proposals 74
4. Effect of Thematic Ambiguity of the Head Noun 76
5. Further Experimental Evidence 80
6. Discussion 83
   References 90

The Processing of Empty Subjects in English and Japanese

Tsutomu Sakamoto and Matthew Walenski

1. Introduction 95
2. Processing of Empty Subjects in English 96
3. Processing of Empty Subjects in Japanese 98
4. Comparison of English and Japanese 100
5. Thematic Hierarchy 102
6. Theta-Checking Strategy .................................................. 105
7. Models of Human Parser .................................................. 107
8. Final Remarks .................................................................. 108
   References ........................................................................ 109

The Production of Agreement in English and Japanese: Animacy Effects (or Lack Thereof)
JANET L. NICOL

1. Introduction ..................................................................... 113
2. Studies of Agreement Errors .............................................. 116
3. General Discussion .......................................................... 126
   References ........................................................................ 127

Context-Independent Sentence Processing
SUSAN BORSKY AND LEWIS SHAPIRO

1. Introduction ..................................................................... 131
2. Investigating Context Effects ............................................. 132
3. The Importance of Experimental Tasks for Interpreting Data .................................................. 145
4. Conclusions ..................................................................... 146
   References ........................................................................ 147

The Influence of Canonical Word Order on Structural Processing
TRACY E. LOVE AND DAVID A. SWINNEY

1. Introduction ..................................................................... 153
2. Basic Issues ..................................................................... 154
3. Processing of Long-Distance Dependencies in English .................................................. 160
4. A Crosslinguistic Perspective ............................................. 162
5. Conclusions and Discussion ............................................. 163
   References ........................................................................ 164

Lexical Access and Coreference Processing in Bulgarian
MAXIM I. STAMENOV AND ELENA ANDONOVA

1. Introduction ..................................................................... 167
2. Background ..................................................................... 168
3. Some Specific Features of the Bulgarian Language .................................................. 169
4. The Problem of Gap Filling and Cross-Modal Lexical Priming .................................................. 169
5. Discussion ........................................................................ 178
   References ........................................................................ 180
The Contribution of Word Form and Meaning to Language Processing in Spanish: Some Evidence from Monolingual and Bilingual Studies
José E. García-Albea, Rosa M. Sánchez-Casas, and José M. Igoa

1. Introduction 183
2. Are Morphological Relations Reducible to Form and Meaning Relationships? 186
3. How Do Form and Meaning Contribute to the Cognate Effects in Bilinguals? 194
4. Is the Cognate Effect a Special Kind of Morphological Effect? 199
5. Concluding Remarks
   References 201
   203

Accounting for Crosslinguistic Variation:
A Constraint-Based Perspective
Robert Thornton, Mariela Gil, and Maryellen C. MacDonald

1. Introduction 211
2. Psycholinguistic Approaches to Crosslinguistic Variation 212
3. Pragmatic Constraint on Crosslinguistic Variation 215
4. The Case of Word Order and Genitives 218
5. Conclusions
   References 222
   223

The Time Course of Attachment Decisions: Evidence from French
Joel Pynne

1. Relative Clause Attachment 228
2. Adjectival Phrase Attachment 232
3. Prepositional Phrase Attachment 236
4. The Dynamics of Attachments
   References 240
   244

Verb Processing in German and English: Ambiguity, Discontinuous Forms, and Thematic Complexity
Dieter Hilbert

1. Introduction 247
2. Verb Ambiguities 248
3. Discontinuous Verb Particle Combinations 250
4. Thematic Complexity 257
5. Conclusions 259
   References 261

The Dimensional Conception of Space and the Use of Dimensional Prepositions in Different Languages
THEO HERRMANN AND JOACHIM GRABOWSKI

1. Introduction 265
2. Different Conceptions of the First Horizontal Axis and Its Poles 267
3. Some Determinants of Origo Setting 275
4. Experiments on the Interpretation of “in Front of” and “Behind” and Their Counterparts in German, Dutch, Italian, and French 277
5. A Psycholinguistic Explanation of Crosslinguistic Differences 284
   References 287

Syntactic Ambiguity Resolution in German
BARBARA HEMFORTH, LARS KONIECZNY, CHRISTOPH SCHEEPERS, AND GERHARD STRUBE

1. Introduction 293
2. The Differential Perspective 294
3. Parallel Constructions 296
4. Constraint Ordering 297
5. Constituent Ordering and the Time Course of Phrase Structure Building 299
6. Constituent Order and Thematic Prominence 300
7. Attachment Ambiguities 302
8. An Intermediate Summary 305
9. Limits of Parametrized Head Attachment 306
10. Conclusions 308
   References 309

Challenges to Recent Theories of Language Differences in Parsing: Evidence from Dutch
DON C. MITCHELL AND MARC BRYSBAERT

1. Introduction 313
2. Background 314
3. A Closer Look at the Crosslinguistic Differences 315
4. Theoretical Interpretations 318
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Contents</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>5. A Preliminary Evaluation of These Proposals</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6. Further Evidence from Dutch</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7. Conclusions from Dutch</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8. Overall Conclusions</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>References</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Syntactically Based Parsing Strategies: Evidence from Typologically Different Languages**

*Marica De Vincenzi*

1. Introduction | 337 |
2. The Minimal Chain Principle | 338 |
3. The Minimal Chain Principle and the Processing of Declarative Sentences | 339 |
4. Conclusions | 342 |
| References | 343 |

**The Development of Sentence Comprehension in Italian and Serbo-Croatian: Local versus Distributed Cues**

*Antonella Devescovi, Simonetta D'Amico, Stan Smith, Ivo Mimica, and Elizabeth Bates*

1. Background | 346 |
2. Overview of Italian and Serbo-Croatian Grammar | 349 |
3. Experiment 1 | 353 |
4. Experiment 2 | 359 |
5. Experiment 3 | 366 |
6. General Discussion | 370 |
| References | 374 |

**Role of Context in the Comprehension of Ambiguous Italian Idioms**

*Lucia Colombo*

1. Introduction | 379 |
2. The Comprehension of Figurative Language | 381 |
3. The Comprehension of Ambiguous Idioms in an Off-Line Task: Experiment 1 | 384 |
4. The Comprehension of Ambiguous Idioms in On-Line Tasks: Experiments 2 and 3 | 387 |
5. Implications from the Present Data and Conclusions | 400 |
| References | 402 |
Compactness and Conceptual Complexity of Conventionalized and Creative Metaphors in Italian

Cristina Cacciari

1. Introduction 405
2. Metaphor Compactness 407
3. Innovative Metaphorical Descriptions 416
4. Conventional and Innovative Metaphors 419
5. Conclusions 421
   References 422

Index 427