

Beyond Principle C: (Not)-at-issueness and plausibility influence acceptability of coconstrual

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1 Introduction

This is the introduction to the paper.

If you are using Word, please insure that your example numbers are consistent with your text references. If you are using \LaTeX we recommend using the `gb4e` package. It's not perfect, but it allows for sub-examples, functionality not supported by the `equation` environment.

- (1) a. This is an English example.
b. This is a longer English example.
- (2) Here is a free-standing example.

2 Experiment: offline forced choice task

In Experiment we used the forced choice paradigm to assess whether the information status of the clause which hosts the structurally illicit coconstrual (AI vs. NAI) influences ...

2.1 Participants

82 university undergraduates, all native speakers of English, participated. Data from 14 additional participant were excluded due to their failing on 20% of control sentences. Data from 21 additional participants were excluded, because the participants indicated that they were not native speakers of English.

2.1.1 Design

A sample target stimulus is presented in Fig. 2. Each target sentence featured a pronoun c-commanding the name embedded in a possessive DP, as shown in (7)-(10), in one of two conditions: backwards anaphora embedded as AI content (matrix clause) or NAI content (adjunct temporal clause) (see Table 1 below). The items further varied in terms of conceptual plausibility of coconstrual (determined via plausibility rankings reported in a norming study in [4]).

2.2 Procedure

Participants read sentences with a pronoun and a following gender-matching name (e.g. her and Pamela), and were asked to choose between a same-gender sentence-internal or sentence-external referent for the pronoun, both of which were introduced with equal prominence during training.

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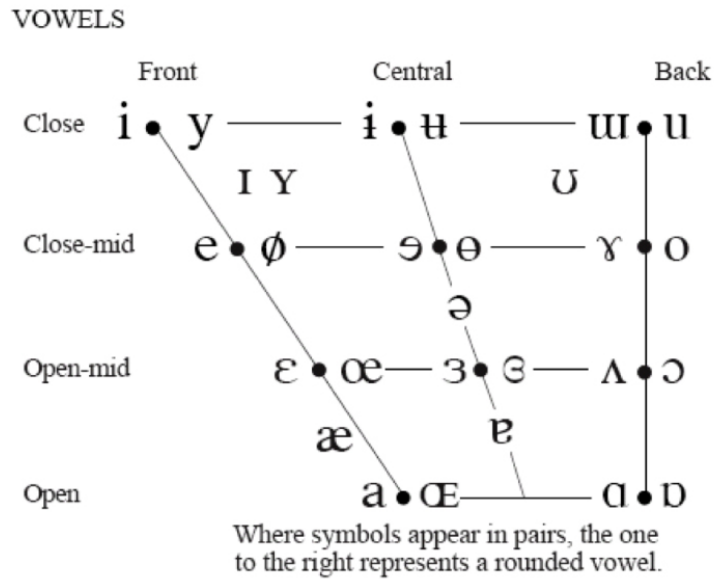


Figure 1: The vowel chart used in the International Phonetic Alphabet (IPA).

2.3 Analysis

This is analysis.

2.4 Results

Results are presented in Fig. 3. As expected by [4], target items with low-ranked potential coconstrual yielded low percentage of sentence-internal referent chosen (0% in AI condition, and 7.79% in NAI condition). On the contrary, backwards anaphora with highly-plausible coconstrual yielded percentages that were higher than predicted by the c-command relations. The effect was most pronounced in cases where syntactically disfavored backwards anaphora was introduced in a NAI clause (52.61% acceptability in NAI vs. 38.21% AI). This overall trend of increased acceptability of coconstrual in NAI vs. AI content was reflected in all but one of the individual items, as the graph in Fig. 2 below shows. Binomial logistic regression models revealed significant effects of plausibility and AI status (all $p < 0.01$).

- 3 Discussion**
- 4 Conclusions**