

Working Papers in Linguistics

No. 38

PAPERS FROM THE  
LINGUISTICS LABORATORY

*Edited by*  
*Gina Lee*  
*and*  
*Wayne Cowart*

*July 1990*

*The Ohio State University*  
**DEPARTMENT OF LINGUISTICS**

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Department of Linguistics

204 Cunz Hall  
1841 Millikin Road  
Columbus, Ohio 43210-1229  
U.S.A.

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## Foreword

This volume includes papers that take an experimental approach to issues in linguistics and the psychology of language, or that are closely related to that enterprise. It is the second of a series of progress reports from the Linguistics Laboratory (see OSU Working Papers #36). The languages examined are Arabic, Korean and English. Most of the work reported here was done in the Linguistics Laboratory between 1987-1989. The contributors were faculty and students at Ohio State during this period. Some authors have since left Ohio State; current affiliations are given for each.

McAdams' paper, a revised version of his master's thesis, reports on work done on the lateralization of the mental resources that support the analysis of morphologically complex words. He uses a technique that presents words to subjects in such a way as to force the subject to do initial visual processing in only one hemisphere. The results seem to reflect equal facility for dealing with morphologically simple words of several kinds in each hemisphere, but markedly superior facility for dealing with morphologically complex material in the left hemisphere.

Beale and Cowart use a related technique with words presented in auditory sentence contexts. This study yields evidence that a complex cognitive function involved in anaphoric processing emerges only when information about a target word is simultaneously available to each hemisphere.

Scholz discusses an issue in the philosophy of language that seems to bear in interesting ways on the received view of the relation between grammars and parsers. 'Kriptenstein' (Wittgenstein/Kripke) puts forward a 'skeptical paradox' that calls into question the coherence of Chomsky's psychologicistic conception of grammar. Scholz reviews Chomsky's discussion of the paradox and concludes that his attempts to escape the force of the paradox do not succeed. Scholz's analysis suggests that one way the psychologicistic conception might escape the paradox would depend, in part, on positing a much more transparent relation between the grammar and parser than is typically assumed. Such a move would indicate, among other things, that experimental results of various kinds ought to bear much more directly on issues in syntactic theory than is commonly assumed.

Cowart reaches related conclusions. The paper examines some sentences involving extraction from picture NPs. He finds evidence of patterns of acceptability that are unlike those commonly assumed in syntactic research, but which are, nevertheless, quite stable. These results seem to raise questions about the relation between the specifically linguistic resources of the mind and others that may participate in language comprehension in a more peripheral way. These findings also suggest that experimental approaches to issues in syntax may be able to reveal phenomena that conventional informal approaches have failed to detect.

deJong uses X-ray microbeam data to test two accounts of articulator timing which attempt to eliminate the time specification from the mental input: those of Kelso et al. (1985) and Harris et al. (1986). The intent is to help draw the boundary between those aspects of the speech production system that are properly included in the grammatical system that governs production and those regularities of the system that are determined by the anatomy and physiology of the vocal tract

itself. In general, his study -- which uses actual English words, as opposed to reiterant speech -- confirms the findings of the earlier experiments.

Hussein's study, based on an acoustical analysis of VCV utterances in Arabic, considers the source and nature of vowel-to-vowel coarticulation effects. He finds that models of coarticulation proposed by Fowler (1983) and Keating (1985) do not adequately account for vowel-to-vowel coarticulation in Arabic. The paper discusses additional factors that play a role in coarticulation.

Lee investigates the acoustic and articulatory differences between lenis and fortis stops in Korean. Using information on production differences found in past studies, she synthesized both types of stop. These synthesized tokens were later used in perception tests. However, the tokens were not perceived categorically; Lee suspects that this is partly due to dialect. Some participants were native speakers of Chonnam, a dialect which has pitch accent. They may have used the quality of the following vowel to determine whether the preceding consonant was lenis or fortis.

Jun examines the accentual patterns and prosodic structure of Chonnam, a dialect of Korean which has phrasal pitch accent. She demonstrates that the phrasal domain of the pitch accent is the Phonological phrase (P-phrase) in the Prosodic Hierarchy of Selkirk and Nespors & Vogel. Moreover, Chonnam contains two levels above the P-phrase: the Intermediate phrase and the Intonational phrase.

We are grateful to Eliza Segura-Holland for her help in preparing the final layout.

Gina Lee  
Wayne Cowart  
July 1990

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