



CORRELATION AMONG SENTENCES WITH SOCIAL RELATIONS AND SPATIAL DISTANCE : A GAZE-TRACKING STUDY

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MOTIVATION

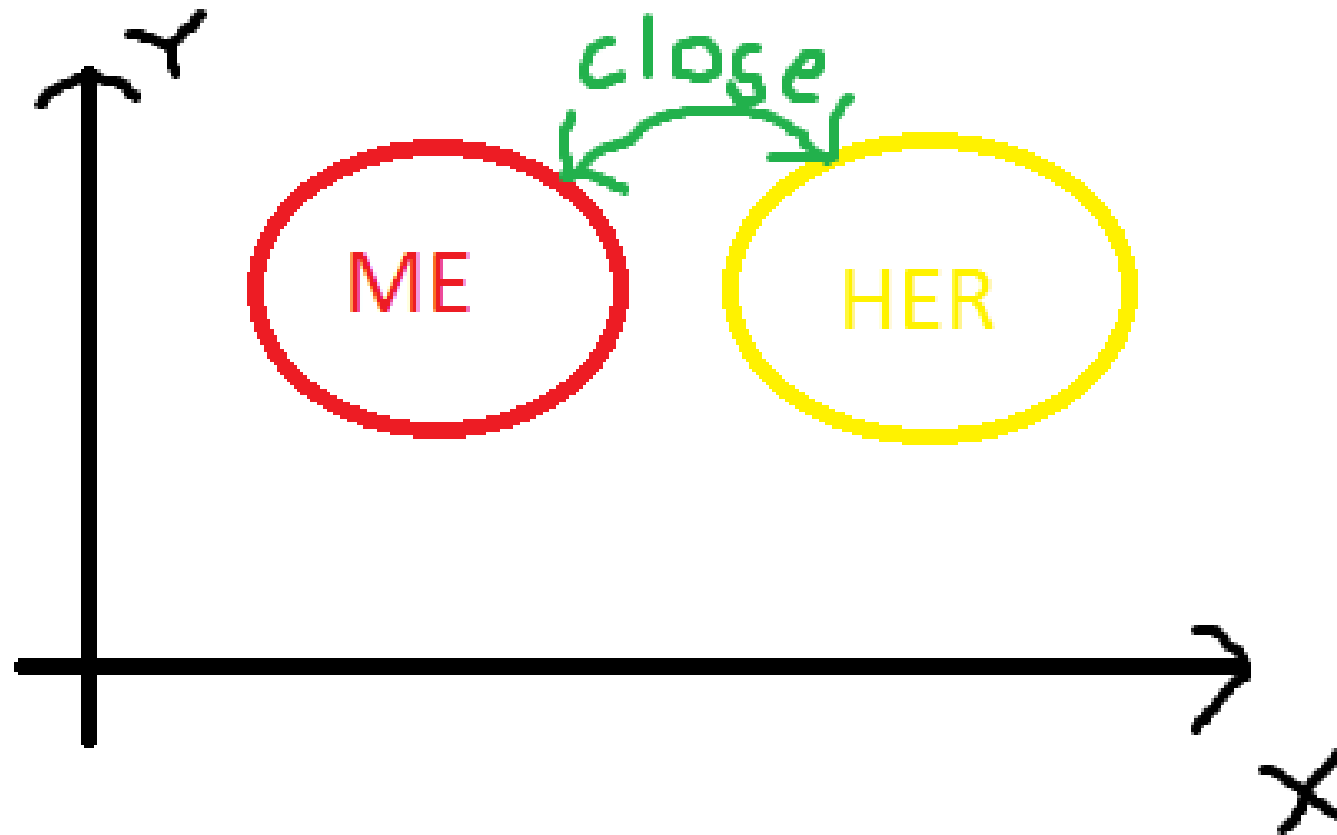
- Geurra & Knoeferle, 2014 : Spatial distance modulates reading times for sentences about social relations: evidence from eye tracking

EVERYDAY SENTENCES

- “She’s a close friend.”

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- “She’s a close friend.”



PREVIOUS WORK

- Lakoff & Johnson, 1999 : “...The Conceptual Metaphor Theory suggests that such expressions arise because abstract representations such as social intimacy are grounded in physical experience such as spatial distance through metaphorical mapping...”
- Williams and Bargh, 2008 - Strength of bond with families vis-à-vis distance marked off on Cartesian plane
- Matthews and Matlock, 2011 - In a path-drawing task participants drew paths closer to figures described to them as friends
- Guerra & Knoeferle, 2012 :“ ...Reading times were shorter for sentences expressing similarity between two abstract and-coordinated nouns when the cards were presented close together, compared to farther apart. ..”

WHAT WE ALREADY KNOW

- Spatial information can modulate participants' reports on their social bonds in a way that is coherent with the conceptual metaphor hypothesis

A QUESTION WE STILL HAVE TO ANSWER

- Can spatial distance be directly co-indexed with the abstract concept of similarity even when there is no one-to-one mapping between coordinated objects and coordinated nouns?

FAR



CLOSE



EXPERIMENT DESIGN

Pre-Experiment Phase :

Short Questionnaire on Languages spoken by subject

EXPERIMENT DESIGN

Phase I :

A pair of cards with two nouns that will depict spatial distance

A set of English sentences with the structure NP – VP – NP – ADV – PP – NP

EXPERIMENT DESIGN

Phase 2 :

A pair of cards with two nouns that will depict spatial distance

A set of English sentences with the structure NP – ADV – VP – NP-PP – NP

NOVELTY

- Studying correlations in non native languages.

REFERENCES

- Tanenhaus, M. K., Spivey-Knowlton, M., Eberhard, K., & Sedivy, J. (1995). Integration of visual and linguistic information during spoken language comprehension. *Science*, 268, 1632–1634.
- Lakoff, G. & Johnson, M. (1999). *Philosophy in the flesh: The embodied mind and its challenge to western thought*. New York, NY: Basic Books
- Matthews, J. L., & Matlock, T. (2011). Understanding the link between spatial distance and social distance. *Social Psychology*, 42, 185–192.
- Williams, L. E., & Bargh, J.A. (2008). Keeping one's distance :The influence of spatial distance cues on affect and evaluation. *Psychological Science*, 19, 302–308.