

Island, resumption, lab 1

Ling499a Feb 9th, 2009

Islands for movement

STRONG ISLANDS: always works; universal

1. Complex NP island

- I believe the claim that John kissed **someone**.
- ***Who**₁ did you believe [the claim that John kissed t₁]?

2. RC island

- I saw the girl who kissed **someone**.
- **Who**₁ did you see [_{RC} the girl₂ who t₂ kissed t₁]?

Islands for movement

STRONG ISLANDS: always works; universal

3. Adjunct clause island

- I got angry because the girl kissed **someone**.
- ***Who**₁ did you get angry [because the girl kissed t₁]?

4. Coordinate Structure Constraint (CSC)

- I saw the girl and **her friend**.
- ***Who**₁ did you see [the girl and t₁]?

Islands for movement

WEAK ISLANDS: selective; not universal

- WH-island
 - I wondered when John kissed **someone**.
 - Who₁ did you wonder when John kissed t₁ ?

What exactly are islands violations of?

- **Chomsky's Subjacency:**
 - conditions on movement operations
- **Bad PF representation:**
 - Sluicing
 - Resumption
- **External, non-grammatical factors:**
 - Memory capacity constraint (Kluender, et al)
 - we'll come back to this in a few weeks

Subjacency

- Movement cannot cross more than one bounding node in one step
 - Condition on **derivations / move operations**
- Bounding nodes are DP and IP
- Can you test how well this works?
- Michael asks: Why?

Bad trace approaches

- **Main idea:**
 - If you just totally delete the structure w/ bad trace, or pronounce it, island violation goes away.
 - These data suggest that movement itself is fine, but the structure left by movement is bad for some reason

Bad trace approaches

- Sluicing: PF deletion of IP under wh-movement
 - a. John kissed someone, but I don't know who₁
(John kissed t₁)
 - b. John saw the girl who kissed someone, but I
don't know who₁ (John saw the girl who kissed
t₁)

Bad trace approaches

- Resumption: replace traces w/ pronouns
 - a. Who did John kiss t_1 ?
 - b. *Who₁ did John see [_{RC} the boy who kissed t_1]?
 - a'. *Who₁ did John kiss her₁ ?
 - b'. Who₁ did John see [_{RC} the boy who kissed her₁]?

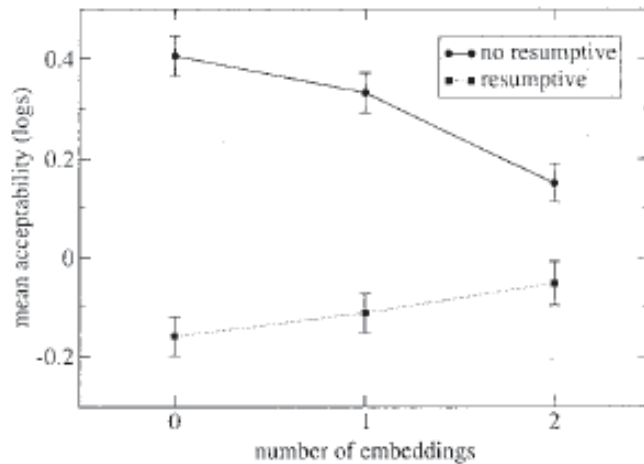
Lab project 1!!!

- Does resumption really rescue island violations in English?
- **Goal**: actually construct an acceptability judgment study yourself, collect and analyze data

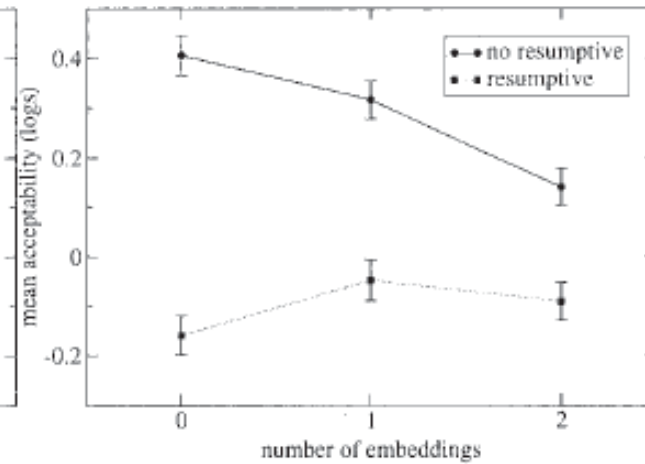
Alexopoulou & Keller 2007

- (11) Nonisland condition (bare clause)
- a. Who will we fire \emptyset /him? (zero embedding)
 - b. Who does Mary claim we will fire \emptyset /him? (single)
 - c. Who does Jane think Mary claims we will fire \emptyset /him? (double)
- (12) Nonisland condition (*that*-clause)
- a. Who does Mary claim that we will fire \emptyset /him? (single)
 - b. Who does Jane think that Mary claims that we will fire \emptyset /him? (double)
- (13) Weak-island condition (*whether*-clause)
- a. Who does Mary wonder whether we will fire \emptyset /him? (single)
 - b. Who does Jane think that Mary wonders whether we will fire \emptyset /him? (double)
- (14) Strong-island condition (relative clause)
- a. Who does Mary meet the people that will fire \emptyset /him? (single)
 - b. Who does Jane think that Mary meets the people that will fire \emptyset /him? (double)

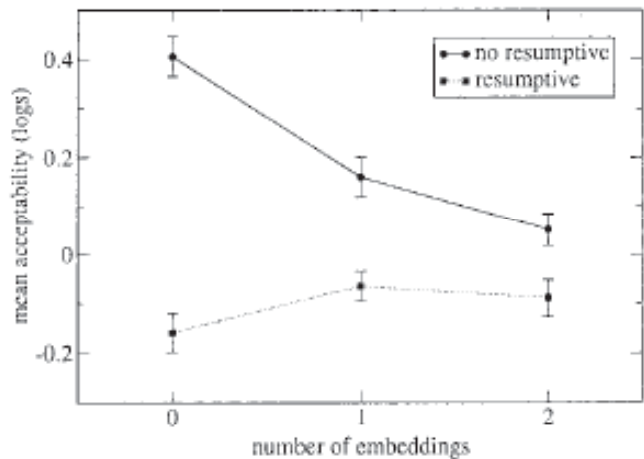
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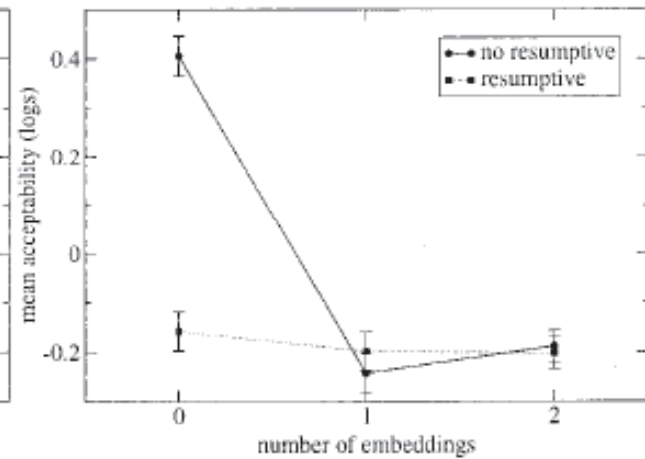
a. Nonisland condition (bare clause).



b. Nonisland condition (*that*-clause).



c. Weak-island condition (*whether*-clause).



d. Strong-island condition (relative clause).

FIGURE 1. Effects of embedding and resumption on object extraction in English in experiment 1.

Your task

Step 1

- Make **3 sets** of baseline, island violation and resumption sentences (by next class)
- Use Google Doc

Step 2

- Collect data from **3 native speakers**
- Report data to me using excel
- Write 1-page report based on group results

More details on sentence making

(A subset of) A&K's conditions (2x2 design)

- Non-island
 - Who₁ does Jane think that Mary claims that we will fire ____₁ ?
 - Who₁ does Jane think that Mary claims that we will fire him₁ ?
- RC island
 - Who₁ does Jane think that Mary meets the people that will fire ____₁ ?
 - Who₁ does Jane think that Mary meets the people that will fire him₁ ?

Design constraints

- Each set of sentences needs to be lexically matched (more or less)
- Use embedded, **d-linked** wh-questions
- The sentences need to be easy to contextualize / pragmatically felicitous
- Most importantly, it needs to be made clear that the pronouns are **intended as resumptive pronouns**, not some random pronoun referring to a third-person/object

Let's make a sample set

- Non-island

- a.

- b.

- Island

- a.

- b.

Take a look at materials from Phillips et al (2005)

Plans now 1

- **Write your three sets of sentences on GoogleDoc by Thursday**
- We'll discuss them in class, as well as other guidelines and design considerations
- ...instead, we'll drop the wh-in-situ topic!
- I will print out copies of AJT and give them to you next Tuesday (17th), so you can collect data

Plans now 2

- Send me your data in an excel file (more on this next Tuesday) by next Thursday (19th)
- I will send you the group results on the same day (19th)
- You will write up one page report by 26th

For thursday

- Make sentences
- Read Crocker