Sentences (1) and (2) can mean the same thing, but for different reasons

1. Mickey talked to Minnie before eating.
2. Mickey talked to Minnie before he ate.

Anaphora resolution requires integration of several sources of information: structural, morphological, conceptual, etc. [1–3, 5, 6]

Design similar to Arnold et al. [1]

- Cue to anaphora in V-ing condition ~160 ms longer
- If reference resolved just as quickly, V-ing should be ≤160 ms slower

Experiment 2: Offline sentence completion (n=60)

- Participants completed sentence, given preambles and images of Exp. 1 items
- 52% of responses had control structure, significantly more than pronouns referring to subject or object (p < 0.001)
- Structural prediction may have led to faster interpretation of V-ing in Exp. 1

Experiment 3: Visual-world eyetracking (n=30)

Putting adjunct control and pronoun on more equal footing: how does timecourse of interpretation compare when adjunct control is less likely?

Resolution of anaphora in adjunct control is only slower inasmuch as the bottom-up input takes longer to disambiguate

- Listeners can interpret the anaphora as fast as feasibly possible
- Despite implicitness of cue
- Despite ambiguity of cue
- Prediction of upcoming structure can facilitate anaphora resolution, just like other forms of prediction can [4]

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References: