

Linguistics as Natural Science

Comments to:

Kluender

Yoshida & Kitagawa

A Metaphor...

- In a science lab...
- We need more fine-grained data collection methods.

How do we do?

1. Train your finger!

- with some success, but...
- extremely heavy burden for subjects
- doubts on credibility of judgments

2. Use technology

- non-invasive brain imaging
(ERP, MEG, fMRI, etc...)
- doesn't involve subjects' subjective decision
- helps get more exact measurements

How do we do?

3. Use statistics

- less burden for subjects
- credibility of data
- can find relevant factors systematically (data mining)

More to be done

- Better control of stimuli
 - factoring out unwanted effects
 - prosodic effects
 - pragmatic effects
 - cognitive effects
 - examining phenomena from various aspects
 - Phonetics: F0, duration, intensity, etc.
 - Syntax: statistics, corpus, etc.
 - Semantics: cross-linguistic variety, ...

More to be considered

- Interface issues
 - Modularity: how are they connected/related one another?
 - Theoretically (PF–Syntax–LF–Pragmatics–IS)
 - Physically (Brain activity–Linguistic theory)
- Pure “grammaticality”?
 - When all the ‘side-effects’ (prosodic, cognitive, pragmatic, etc.) are excluded, what’s going to remain?
 - Or does anything remain at all?

More to be considered

- What are you going to present at the next WPSI?

Thank You!