Title
Limited Reactivation in Noun Phrase Ellipsis

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**Questions:** What is the nature of the representation at ellipsis sites? What information, and how much, is reactivated?

**Background**

**Reactivation** occurs when constituents are reaccessed to resolve a dependency, e.g., fillers reactivating at gap sites, pronouns reactivating their antecedents

**Ellipsis** instantiates such a dependency between the antecedent and ellipsis site.

- Sue walked John’s [dog]Antecedent And Bill walked Mary’s [cat]Elipsis Site
- differs from filler-gap  requires antecedent  but contains non-overt material
- What is the depth of reactivation needed to interpret ellipsis sites?

**Agreement Attraction** (AA) can diagnose the amount of structure reactivated. AA occurs when the verb incorrectly agrees with the attractor that intervenes between the grammatical controller of agreement and the verb.

- The key to the cabinet is on the table.

AA is fed by differing number features contained in the same constituent (3-5).

### Experiment 1

**Question:** Do complex AA-triggering nominals generate agreement attraction when in a possessive structure?

**Design:** Self-paced reading: 32 participants; 32 item sets distributed via Latin Square; 96 fillers

**Items:** Scarlett’s memo from the editor or Verb Grammaticality (Grammatical, Ungrammatical)

**Main effect of Grammaticality:** interaction of Number x Grammaticality Ungrammatical, Plural (a) condition is read faster than Ungrammatical, Singular (a)

- Complex AA-triggering nominals in a possessive structure  agreement attraction

### Experiments 2 & 3

**Question:** Do complex AA-triggering nominals generate agreement attraction when elided?

**Design:** Self-paced reading

**Items:** Ann’s memo from the editor or Verb Grammaticality (Grammatical, Ungrammatical)

**Main effect of Grammaticality:** no Grammaticality x Attractor interaction

- When elided  NO agreement attraction

**Claim:** Reactivation is partial: only the head is reactivated

**Future Work**

- Is all reactivation under ellipsis partial?
- Perhaps generalizable to VPE, sluicing, etc.?
- Are mismatches in NPE allowed as in VPE?
- What factors trigger partial versus full reactivation?

**References**


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