1. INTRODUCTION

When there is no particular expectation for an RC structure at the accusative and nominative NPs, we will also use numeral classifiers that modify inanimate NPs.

Ishizuka (2005):
- Processing difficulty of ORCs comes from its less predictability compared to SRCS.
- Sentence initial nominative NP leads main-clause interpretation in ORCs, whereas sentence initial accusative NP leads RC interpretation in SRCS.

Remaining question: Does the processing of SRCS and ORCS differ when RCs are equally predictable at the accusative and nominative NPs?

⇒ To address this issue, we used *numeral classifier mismatch paradigm*.

2. EXPERIMENT 1: Self-paced reading experiment

**Aim:** To compare the reading times of SRCS and ORCS in the *match* and *mismatch* conditions.

**Participants:** 31 college students at the University of Tokyo (1000 Yen paid)

**Materials:** 24 sets of target sentences + 96 filler sentences

**Design:** MATCHING (match vs. mismatch) × RC-TYPE (SRC vs. ORC)

**Results:**
- In the pairwise comparisons, SRCs were read faster than ORCs in the match conditions.
- However, in the mismatch conditions, participants overwhelmingly produced NON-RCs (87-99%).

3. EXPERIMENT 2: Sentence-fragment completion experiment

**Aim:** To test what kinds of structures are actually predicted in the *match* and *mismatch* conditions.

**Participants:** 30 college students at the University of Tokyo (1000 Yen paid)

**Materials:** 24 sets of target sentences + 36 filler sentences

**Design:** MATCHING (match vs. mismatch) × RC-TYPE (SRC vs. ORC)

**Results:**
- In the match conditions, participants overwhelmingly produced NON-RCs (75-90%).
- In the mismatch conditions, participants mostly produced RCs (66-69%), but there was also quite a few NON-RCs (34-35%).

4. GENERAL DISCUSSION & CONCLUSIONS

1. When there is no particular expectation for an RC structure at the sentence initial accusative and nominative NPs, SRCS are easier to process than ORCs in Japanese.
2. When RCs are equally predictable at the accusative and nominative NPs, the processing asymmetry between SRCS and ORCS is reduced to some extent.

The predictability of RCs is likely to have an impact on the processing of SRCS and ORCS, but it is not the only source of the processing asymmetry.

The careful use of the numeral classifier mismatch paradigm is an efficient tool for investigating sources of the processing asymmetry between SRCS and ORCs in Japanese.

**Future studies:**
1. Testing with the numeral classifiers that modify only non-human creatures in the mismatch conditions in progress.
2. We will also use numeral classifiers that modify inanimate NPs.

**Selected references:**

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