AN EXPERIMENTAL STUDY OF ANTECEDENT RESOLUTION FOR LONG-DISTANCE ANAPHOR CAKI IN KOREAN
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1. THE ISSUE

- The Korean long-distance anaphor caki has been argued to show pronoun-like properties (Cho 1996) such as sentence-external antecedents, non-o-commanding antecedents and split antecedents.
- Caki is not strictly subject oriented:
     John-tom Mary-dat Tom-nom self-acc like-PRES-COMP say-PST-DECL
     'John told Mary that Tom likes self.'
     Chelswu-tom dat self/he/she-nom win-FUT-COMP say-PRES-DECL
     'Chelswu told Swuni that self/he/she will win.'

- Caki can in fact be ambiguous where there are more than one potential antecedent in a given sentence.
- Research Questions:
  1. Does discourse salience have an impact on reference resolution for pronouns in Korean?
  2. In an experimental context, will caki behave just as pronouns do?

2. EXPERIMENT DESIGN

- Audio recorded Korean sentences were combined with still-image video presentation.
- Each image contains two characters and some item in between to anchor the setting (Fig 1).
- Audio presented in five-sentence narratives. The first two sentences (2) introduce the characters, the second two sentences (3) emphasize one of the characters, or the item in between them.
- (2) Chelswu and Swuni are at a swimming pool. Chelswu and Swuni are going to race.
- (3) Swuni belongs to the school swimming team. So, Swuni practices swimming for an hour every day.
- The fifth sentence (4) is the target, where the embedded subject is one of caki, ku ‘he’, or kunye ‘she’.
- Participants then see a comprehension question (5) displayed on screen in Korean.

3. EXPERIMENTAL RESULTS

- Eyetracking results limited to 14 participants.
- Using proper names as controls, we see that gaze is directed to the correct antecedent roughly 300 ms after the onset of the name (Fig 2).
- For all of caki, ku, and kunye we see a pattern of looks toward the subject more than anything else during the 300ms – 1000ms interval after onset. Results for caki in all three contexts are shown (Fig 3).
- In a three-way ANOVA (Anaphor Type x Context x Target of Fixation) we find only a significant effect of target of fixation ($F_{(1,11)} = 27.610, p = .000$)
- Average responses for all conditions on the behavioral task were calculated from all 27 participants (Fig 4).
- A two-way ANOVA (Anaphor Type x Context) was conducted with the following findings:
  - Significant main effect of Anaphor Type ($F_{(2,52)} = 305.180, p < .05$), All three anaphors have different behaviour.
  - Significant main effect of Context ($F_{(2,52)} = 7.788, p < .05$), Object distinct from Subject and Neutral.
  - Significant interaction effect ($F_{(4,104)} = 5.809, p < .05$). Effect of context only seen in pronouns.

4. CONCLUSIONS

- Context does have a significant effect on the resolution of ambiguous reference for pronouns.
- Context does not have the same effect on caki.
- Whatever process is responsible for resolving this ambiguity for caki, it will be distinct from the process employed by pronouns.
- Subjects appear to be early stage default antecedents for pronouns and caki. In later processing, pronouns are influenced by context.

REFERENCES AND ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS


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