Appendix A: Experimental and filler sentences in English

Participants heard ambiguous sentences produced with an 'Early Juncture' or 'Late Juncture' (italicized) and were asked to choose the correct interpretation sentence by pressing either the left or right button. Button locations and juncture versions were counterbalanced.

EXPERIMENTAL SENTENCES

1.

LEFT BUTTON
Simon gave dog biscuits to Mary

RIGHT BUTTON
Simon gave biscuits to Mary's dog Max

Early Juncture: *"Simon gave her # dog biscuits"*
Late Juncture: *"Simon gave her dog # biscuits"*

2.

LEFT BUTTON
The boy gave cat food to Mrs. Hubbard

RIGHT BUTTON
The boy gave food to Mrs. Hubbard's cat Tommy

Early Juncture: *"Last night, the boy gave her # cat food"*
Late Juncture: *"Last night, the boy gave her cat # food"*

3.

LEFT BUTTON
Larry gave horse radishes to Anne everyday

RIGHT BUTTON
Larry gave radishes to Anne's horse Albert everyday

Early Juncture: *"Everyday, Simon gave her # horse radishes"*
Late Juncture: *"Everyday, Simon gave her horse # radishes"*

4.

LEFT BUTTON
Tonight, John the butler will serve catfish to Madame Aubert

RIGHT BUTTON
Tonight, John the butler will serve fish to Madame Aubert's cat Felix

Early Juncture: *"Tonight, John the butler will serve her # catfish for dinner"*
Late Juncture: *"Tonight, John the butler will serve her cat # fish for dinner"*

5.

LEFT BUTTON
Last night, Nora got into trouble because she served ladybirds to Mme Aubert

RIGHT BUTTON
Last night, Nora got into trouble because she served birds to Mme Aubert

Early Juncture: *"Last night, Nora got into trouble for serving her # ladybirds"*
Late Juncture: *"Last night, Nora got into trouble for serving her lady # birds"*

6.

LEFT BUTTON
David accidentally gave rat poison to Hannah

RIGHT BUTTON

David accidentally gave poison to Hannah's pet rat Rohan

Early Juncture: *"David accidentally gave her # rat poison"*
Late Juncture: *"David accidentally gave her rat # poison"*

7.

LEFT BUTTON
In the novel "Peter Pan", Wendy made pancakes for Peter Pan

RIGHT BUTTON
In the novel "Peter Pan", Wendy made cakes for Peter Pan

Early Juncture: *"In the movie, Wendy made Peter Pan cookies. But in the actual novel, Wendy made Peter # pancakes"*
Late Juncture: *"In the movie, Wendy made Peter Pan cookies. But in the actual novel, Wendy made Peter Pan # cakes"*

8.

LEFT BUTTON
Sam gave the baby milk to Sophie

RIGHT BUTTON
Sam gave milk to Sophie's baby

Early Juncture: *"An hour ago, Sam gave her # baby milk"*
Late Juncture: *"An hour ago, Sam gave her baby # milk"*

9.

LEFT BUTTON
Mrs. Fields fed goat's milk to her baby

RIGHT BUTTON
Mrs. Fields fed milk to her baby goats

Early Juncture: *"This morning, Mrs. Fields fed her baby # goat's milk"*
Late Juncture: *"This morning, Mrs. Fields fed her baby goats # milk"*

10.

LEFT BUTTON
We fed some fishcake crumbs to Brigitte

RIGHT BUTTON
We fed some cakecrumbs to Brigitte's fish Harry

Early Juncture: *"We fed her # fishcake crumbs"*
Late Juncture: *"We fed her fish # cakecrumbs"*

11.

LEFT BUTTON
The children accidentally gave duckweeds to Janet Farmer

RIGHT BUTTON
The children accidentally gave weeds to Janet Farmer's pet duck

Early Juncture: *"The children accidentally gave her # duckweeds to eat"*
Late Juncture: *"The children accidentally gave her duck # weeds to eat"*

12.

LEFT BUTTON
The old sorcerer fed dragonfruits to her pet

RIGHT BUTTON

The old sorcerer fed fruits to her pet dragon

Early Juncture: *"For breakfast, the old sorcerer fed her pet # dragonfruits"*
Late Juncture: *"For breakfast, the old sorcerer fed her pet dragon # fruits"*

13.

LEFT BUTTON
The tour guide made the ginseng tea from Korea

RIGHT BUTTON
The tour guide made ginseng tea for the Korean tourist

Early Juncture: *"The tour guide made # the Korean ginseng tea"*
Late Juncture: *"The tour guide made the Korean # ginseng tea"*

14.

LEFT BUTTON
This year, the host family gave away fans that are from Japan

RIGHT
This year, the host family gave away fans to the Japanese

Early Juncture: *"This year, the host family gave # the Japanese fans"*
Late Juncture: *"This year, the host family gave the Japanese # fans"*

15.

LEFT BUTTON
The waiter served salads to the Greeks

RIGHT BUTTON
The waiter served the Greek salads to all

Early Juncture: *"The waiter served # the Greek salad"*
Late Juncture: *"The waiter served the Greeks # salad"*

16.

LEFT BUTTON
The chef cooked spaghetti for the Sicilians

RIGHT BUTTON
The chef cooked Sicilian-styled spaghetti

Early Juncture: *"Our chef cooked # the Sicilian spaghetti"*
Late Juncture: *"Our chef cooked the Sicilians # spaghetti"*

17.

LEFT BUTTON
In the morning, the hotel chef serves toasts to the French tourists

RIGHT BUTTON
In the morning, the hotel chef serves French-style toasts

Early Juncture: *"Every morning the hotel chef serves # the French toast"*
Late Juncture: *"Every morning the hotel chef serves the French # toast"*

18.

LEFT BUTTON
Gertrude narrated her travel stories to the English people

RIGHT BUTTON
Gertrude narrated her stories about her travels in England

Early Juncture: *"Today, Gertrude told # the English travel stories"*
Late Juncture: *"Today, Gertrude told the English # travel stories"*

19.

LEFT BUTTON
The ambassadors will present the Chinese with porcelain vases

RIGHT BUTTON
The ambassadors will give vases that are made of Chinese porcelain

Early Juncture: *"Next year, the German ambassadors will give # the Chinese porcelain vases"*
Late Juncture: *"Next year, the German ambassadors will give the Chinese # porcelain vases"*

20.

LEFT BUTTON
Bette only bought sunglasses for her daughter

RIGHT BUTTON
Bette only bought glasses for her son

Early Juncture: *"Bette only bought her # sunglasses"*
Late Juncture: *"Bette only bought her son # glasses"*

21.

LEFT BUTTON
Holly was fooling around in the churchyard

RIGHT BUTTON
Holly's pet got into the churchyard

Early Juncture: *"Holly wondered whether the vicar had seen her monkey around the churchyard"*

Late Juncture: *"Holly wondered whether the vicar had seen her monkey # around the churchyard"*

22.

LEFT BUTTON
Mr. Johnson saw Jessica kneel under the table

RIGHT BUTTON Mr. Johnson saw Jessica's pet duck, Donald, under the table

Early Juncture: *"Yesterday, Mr. Johnson saw her # duck under her table"*
Late Juncture: *"Yesterday, Miss. Johnson saw her duck # under her table"*

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1. - Syntactic ambiguity

LEFT BUTTON
Adam has never tried meat before – he has no idea that meat can be really tasty

RIGHT BUTTON
Adam has never tried good-quality meat before – he has no idea that good-quality meat can be really tasty.

"Adam has no idea how good meat tastes"

2. - Syntactic ambiguity

LEFT BUTTON
Going away to visit relatives can be really tiring

RIGHT BUTTON
Our relatives who are currently visiting can be really tiring

"*Visiting relatives can be really tiring"*

3. Syntactic ambiguity (attachment ambiguity)

LEFT BUTTON
The nun used a telescope to see the woman standing on the hill

RIGHT BUTTON
The nun saw the woman who standing on the hill carrying her a telescope

"The nun saw the woman on the hill with a telescope"

4. -– Syntactic ambiguity (attachment ambiguity)

LEFT BUTTON

Old Grandma Fensby used could only look at the injured dog with one of her eyes.

RIGHT BUTTON

Old Grandma Fensby looked at the injured dog who only had one eye

"*Old Grandma Fensby was staring at the injured dog with only one eye*"

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5. - Semantic ambiguity

LEFT BUTTON

Joan also loves her own mother

RIGHT BUTTON

Joan also loves Natasha's mother

"*Natasha loves her mother and Joan does too*"

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6. - Semantic ambiguity

LEFT BUTTON

At the train station, both Richard and Marcel said goodbye to their own wives

RIGHT BUTTON

At the train station, Richard said goodbye to his wife, who was also farewelled by Marcel

"*At the train station, Richard said goodbye to his wife and Marcel did too*"

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7. – Anaphoric ambiguity

LEFT BUTTON

The parrot got really oily

RIGHT BUTTON
The kitchen got really oily

"*The parrot stood on the kitchen table and it tried to get some oil out of the oil jar. It spilled everywhere. It soon got really oily.*

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8. – Anaphoric ambiguity

LEFT BUTTON
The horse got really muddy

RIGHT BUTTON
The hill got really muddy

"*The horse tried to go up a hill while it was raining. It was very steep. It soon got really muddy from all the thumping*"

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9. – Lexical ambiguity involving homonyms

LEFT BUTTON
Sasha wants to eat some vegetables

RIGHT BUTTON
Sasha wants to go to space

"*Sasha wants to ride on a rocket*"

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10. – Lexical ambiguity involving homonyms

LEFT BUTTON
Lola went to the saving bank

RIGHT BUTTON

Lola went to the bank of the river

"Lola went to the bank for a swim"

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11. – Lexical ambiguity involving homonyms

LEFT BUTTON
Joe wants to find another red sock

RIGHT BUTTON
Joe wants to light his cigarette

"*With a cigarette in his hand, Joe looked in the drawer for a match*"

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12. Lexical ambiguity involving homonyms

LEFT BUTTON
I saw military tanks

RIGHT BUTTON
I saw water tanks

"After the riots, I saw tanks in the town square"