

COMPOUND-INTERNAL ANAPHORA

Evidence from acceptability judgements on Italian argumental compounds

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Anaphoric islands (Postal 1969)

- 1) *Those who teach classical languages_i don't appreciate people who deal with modern ones_i*
- 2) **Classical language_i teachers don't appreciate people who deal with modern ones_i*

Islands or peninsulas (Corun 1973)?

Ward et al. (1991):

3) *Although casual cocaine_i use is down, the number of people using it_i routinely has increased*

Easily decomposable thanks to the **argumental structure**

Argumental compounds in Italian

Verb + Noun

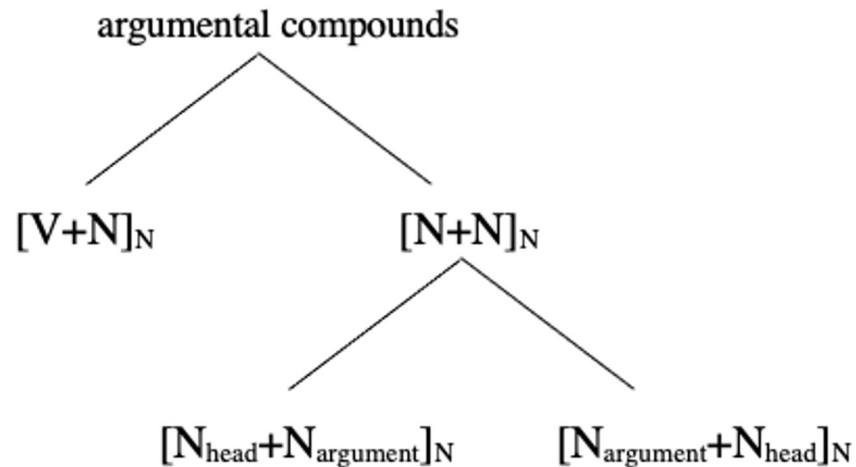
tostapane “bread toster”

Noun_H + Noun

trasporto merci “freight transportation”

Noun + Noun_H

autolavaggio “car wash”



Study

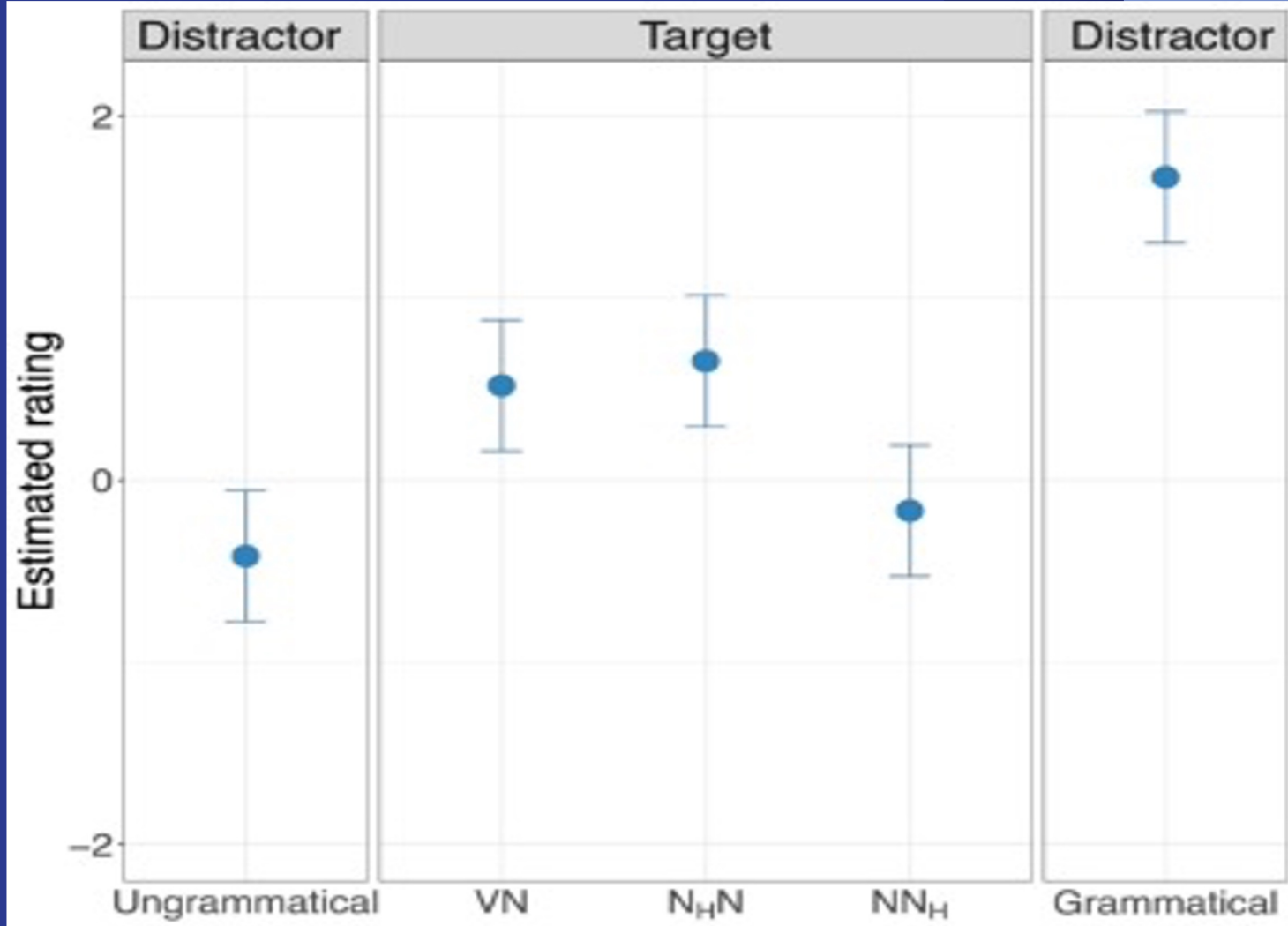
Materials

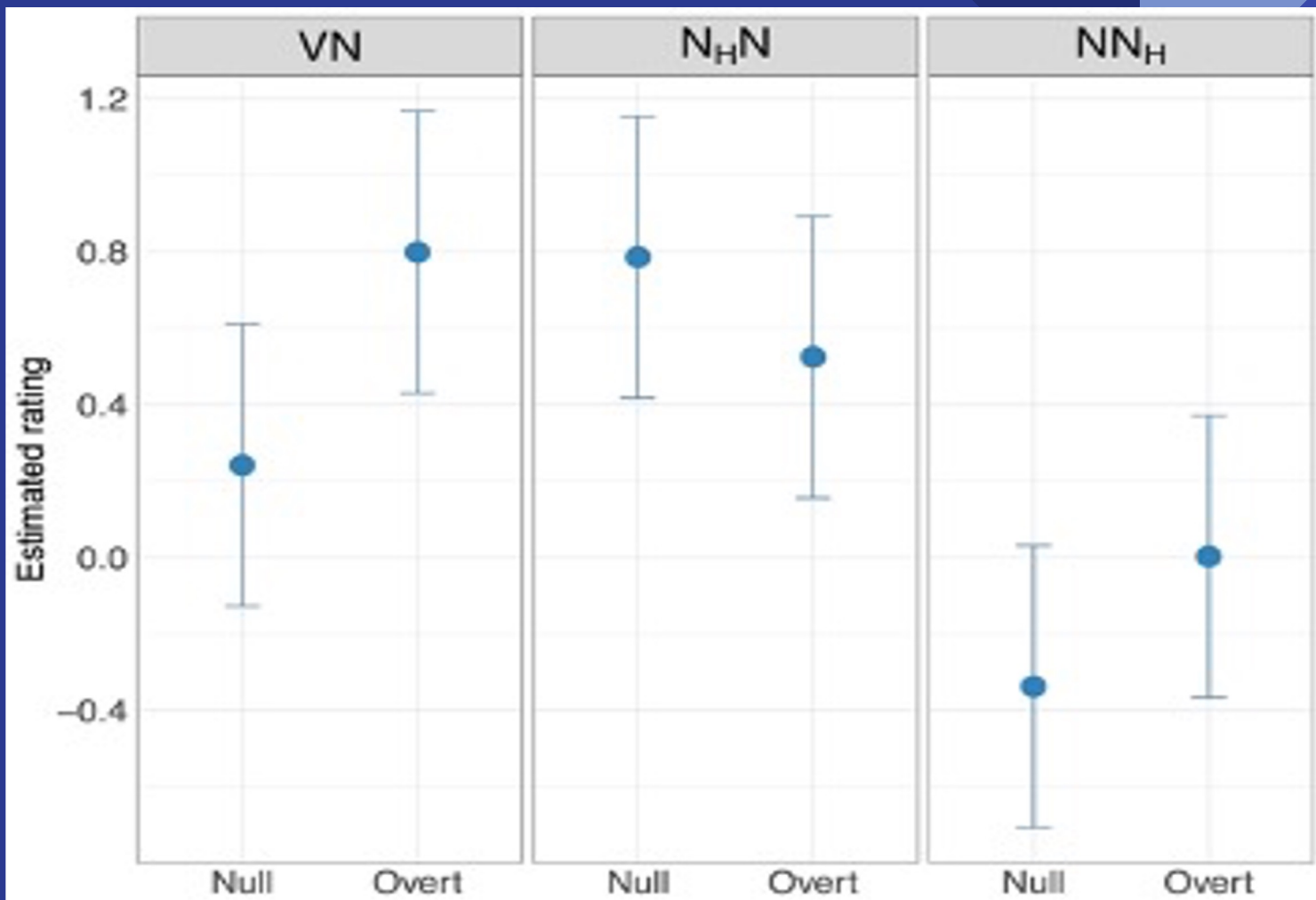
10 VN \rightarrow 5 null pronoun; 5 overt pronoun

10 N_HN \rightarrow 5 null pronoun; 5 overt pronoun

10 NN_H \rightarrow 5 null pronoun; 5 overt pronoun

20 distractors \rightarrow 10 grammatical; 10 ungrammatical





Possible explanations

Normally overt pronoun more acceptable than null pronouns (Montermini 2006)

Why only VN and not N_HN ?

- Information structure? Argument as subtopics
- Quality of referential expression or syntactic role?
- Voice? Only direct object in VN?

Syntactic functions related to
informative functions!
=
Correlation between subjects and
topics (Lambrecht, 1994)

Conclusions

More experimental data!

Especially on phenomena on the edge of acceptability

Thank you!