

The effect of phrase length on implicit prosody and the processing of syntactic ‘garden path’ ambiguities in Korean

It is widely known that parsing preferences can be altered by implicit prosody computed during silent reading, which, like explicit prosody, is directly affected by phrase length (e.g., Fodor 1998, 2003, Hirose 2003, Hwang and Schafer 2009). However, the evidence for implicit prosody is indirect as most studies relied on behavioral measures; therefore, phrase length effects on parsing remain open to non-prosodic explanations. This talk will present more direct evidence from an ERP experiment that shows specific brain responses reflecting the on-line use of prosodic information in Korean garden path sentences (e.g., Closure Positive Shift as a electrophysiological correlate of prosodic phrasing, and P600 as an indication of garden-path effects), as well as results from behavioral studies using self-paced reading and rapid serial visual processing paradigms.