

Usage or Grammar? Comprehension and production share access to *same* probabilities

I present evidence that syntactic production and comprehension have access to the same probabilistic syntactic information. Hence, probabilistic information is part of the syntactic system shared by production and comprehension (supporting Gahl & Garnsey, 2004 over Newmeyer, 2006). The evidence comes from syntactic reduction. For example, reduced complement clauses (without a complementizer) are known to be comprehended more easily when predictable. I show that the predictability of such clauses also influences their reduction likelihood in production. Evidence from relative clause reduction further suggests that knowledge of syntactic probabilities is not limited to subcategorization probabilities, but includes other collocational information.