

Psycholinguistics

Assignment 1 – Article summary (due November 12)

Your task is to read one of the two articles and write a summary of it.

ARTICLES:

Turnbull, R., & Peperkamp, S. (2017). The asymmetric contribution of consonants and vowels to phonological similarity: Evidence from lexical priming. *The Mental Lexicon*, 12(3), 404-430.

OR

Fiorentino, R., Naito-Billen, Y., & Minai, U. (2016). Morphological decomposition in Japanese de-adjectival nominals: Masked and overt priming evidence. *Journal of Psycholinguistic Research*, 45, 575-597.

(The articles are available online through York University libraries.)

WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

A research article in psycholinguistics usually has the following structure:

Abstract

(not part of the article text): a brief summary (is used to help with literature search)

Introduction/Background:

this is where the research question is introduced, the linguistic variables that are used as stimuli are described, the previous work on this and/or related topics is discussed, and the hypothesis(hypotheses)/prediction(s) is stated. (Can have several (sub)sections.)

Method:

how the study was conducted. Usually has the following subsections:

Participants (describing what kind of people participated, how many, their age, sex, language abilities, etc.);

Materials (describing the stimuli that were presented)

Procedure (describing the task the participants had to perform)

Results:

presenting the results of the study. Tables, graphs, statistical analysis.

Discussion:

discussing the results and whether they confirm or refute any of the authors' hypotheses, comparing them to previous findings, discussing broad implications.

Conclusion:

summarizing the findings and their contribution to the field of psycholinguistics (and possibly to science in a broader sense)

WHAT YOU NEED TO DO

- Choose one of the two articles and read it.
- Write a summary of the article containing the following:
 1. **Research question and objectives.** What was the research question(s)/objective(s)? What did the authors want to find out?
 2. **Hypotheses and predictions.** The hypotheses and predictions, and where they come from. They normally arise from the previous literature (what we know about this issue) – which is usually reviewed in the introduction. There may be two or more competing hypotheses, or two or more competing theories or models that give different predictions regarding a particular aspect of language processing.
 3. **Method.** A summary of the methodology used. How was the study conducted:
 - Describe the participants: who were they? Do the participants have any special characteristics?
 - Describe the stimuli: what kinds of stimuli were used (and from what language)? Describe the different types of stimuli/different conditions, give examples.
 - Describe the task: what did the participants have to do? What was the structure of a trial? Why was this methodology chosen? Is it appropriate for the research question(s)? If there is more than one experiment in the article, describe the methodology for each experiment.
 4. **Results.** A summary of the results (not the statistics, but the findings).
 5. **Interpretation of results.** What the results mean: Do they support the hypotheses/predictions? How do they answer the research question(s)? Think about what you have learned in the course, and answer the following questions:
 - What are their implications for language processing in general?
 - What is the contribution of this paper to the field of psycholinguistics?
 6. **Connections to course material.** The connection of the article's research questions and findings to the course material (what you have learned that is directly relevant to this study), and how the article expanded your knowledge.

Organization

Please type your assignment, 12 pt font, 1 inch margins, double-spaced, maximum 3 pages, no title page.

On the first page, state clearly which article you are writing about.

Use section headings (in bold above).

Use APA style for any citations.

Use your own words, quote only if absolutely necessary.

UPLOAD YOUR ASSIGNMENT USING THE LINK UNDER NOVEMBER 12 (LECTURE 15).

Resources on academic writing:

Turabian, K. L. (2018) (revised by Booth, Wayne C.; Colomb, Gregory G.; Williams, Joseph M.; Bizup, Joseph; FitzGerald, William T.; University of Chicago Press Editorial Staff, eds.) *A Manual for Writers of Research Papers, Theses, and Dissertations* (9th ed.). Chicago: University of Chicago Press.

York University writing resources: <http://writing.laps.yorku.ca/resources/>