

Looking at Interlanguage Processes

Looking at IL Processes

- The Monitor Model
 - The Competition Model
 - Modes of Knowledge Representation
-

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The Competition Model

- What is your interpretation of these English sentences?*
 - What criteria do you use to interpret them?*
-

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The Competition Model

- The cows eat the grass.

Who or what does the eating?

- How do you know?
-

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The Competition Model

- The grass eat the cows.

Who or what does the eating?

- How do you know?
-

5

The Competition Model

- The grass eats the cows.

Who or what does the eating?

- How do you know?
-

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The Competition Model

- The pencil see the boys.

Who or what does the seeing?

- How do you know?
-

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The Competition Model

- The pencil sees the boys.

Who or what does the seeing?

- How do you know?
-

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The Competition Model

- Syntactic ambiguity is resolved by cue strengths. Consider:

- A asked B to go.
 - Jimmy asked his mother to go play.
 - Jimmy went to play.
 - The doctor asked Jeff to go see a specialist.
 - Jeff went to see a specialist.
-

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The Competition Model

- The boy asked the girl to go.

Who went?

- How do you know?
-

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The Competition Model

- The dog asked the girl to go.

Who went?

- How do you know?
-

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The Competition Model

- The girl asked the chair to go.

Who went?

- How do you know?
-

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The Competition Model

- The chair asked the dog to go.

Who went?

- How do you know?

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The Competition Model

In processing meaning in sentences we use these cues:

- Syntax
 - Word order (SVO)
- Morphology (Case of nouns, Agreement between subject and verb)
- Semantics
 - ± Human
 - ± Animate

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The Competition Model

- In some cases the semantic and syntactic cues converge to give the same interpretation of a sentence.
- In other cases the semantic and syntactic cues conflict.
- The interpretation we choose is based on competition among the cues.

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The Competition Model

- Different languages assign different weights to syntactic and semantic cues.
- Learners of a second language tend to transfer the weights associated with the cues in their first language.

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The Competition Model

- *Here is part of an Italian conversation among friends as they decide what to order at a restaurant. What is your interpretation of these Italian sentences?*
- *What criteria do you use to interpret them? Are your criteria the same as the ones you used to interpret the English sentences?*

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Italian Vocabulary

Allora = well	Le lasagne = lasagne
Anche = also	Mangiare = to eat, take, have
Consigliare = to recommend	Prendere = to have, take, eat
Gli spaghetti = spaghetti	Qui = here
Io = I	Sempre = always
La pastasciutta = pasta	Un primo = a first course

The Competition Model

- Io mangerei un primo.

Who or what will eat what?

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The Competition Model

- La pastasciutta Franco la prende sempre qui.

Who or what always eats what here?

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The Competition Model

- Allora mangio anch'io la pastasciutta.

Who or what will eat what?

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The Competition Model

- Ha consigliato le lasagne qui Franco, no?

Who or what recommended what here?

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The Competition Model

- No, le lasagne le ha consigliate Elizabeth.

Who or what recommended what?

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The Competition Model

- Allora, io gli spaghetti prendo.

Who or what will eat what?

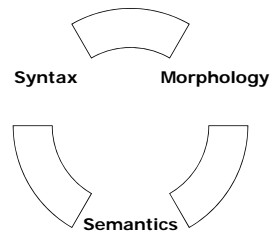
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The Competition Model

- Io mangerei un primo.
- La pastasciutta Franco la prende sempre qui.
- Allora mangio anch'io la pastasciutta.
- Ha consigliato le lasagne qui Franco, no?
- No, le lasagne le ha consigliate Elizabeth.
- Allora, io gli spaghetti prendo.

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What are the relative cue strengths of English and Italian?



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The Competition Model and SLA

- L2 learners are faced with conflicts between L1 and L2 cues and cue strengths.
- Learners first resort to their L1 interpretation strategies.
- When they recognize an incongruity between the L1 and L2 systems, they resort to a universal selection of meaning-based cues.
- Finally, learners gradually adopt the appropriate biases and their L2 proficiency increases.

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