

Appendices for ‘Acceptability of at-issue co-speech gestures under contrastive focus’

Appendix A. Instructions

Here I adduce the instructions that the MTurk participants saw before completing the study (some of the aspects of the formatting, such as, for example, the fonts, were not preserved).

Instructions

To complete this study you will need a computer with Internet connection and an up-to-date version of Adobe Flash Player, as well as headphones or speakers. Please make sure your screen is big enough to watch videos.

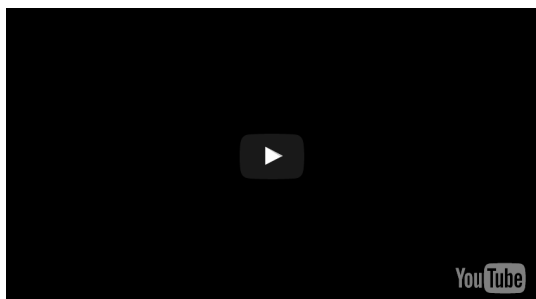
This study has 2 blocks of 9 trials each (i.e., 18 trials altogether), and should take about 12–15 minutes to complete. In each trial you will watch an unfinished sentence in English containing a gesture followed by two different continuations, each of them also containing a gesture. The unfinished sentence will be separated from each of the continuations by a brief black screen.

Your task will be to assess how natural each of the two continuations to the unfinished sentence is by dragging a slider on a continuous scale from ‘Totally unnatural’ to ‘Totally natural’. (If you want to leave the slider where it is, i.e., in the middle of the scale, you will need to at least click on it, otherwise you won’t be allowed to proceed.) **Please pay attention to the gestures in the videos when assessing the continuations.**

Please note that there are no right or wrong answers here. When assessing the naturalness of the continuations you are expected to rely on your own linguistic intuitions rather than some prescriptive rules of “good English”.

Here is an example (your judgements might be different from those provided in the example):

Watch an unfinished sentence followed by continuation A:



For most speakers of English this is a coherent, natural continuation to this unfinished sentence. If you are among those speakers, you might want to judge it very high on the naturalness scale, for example:

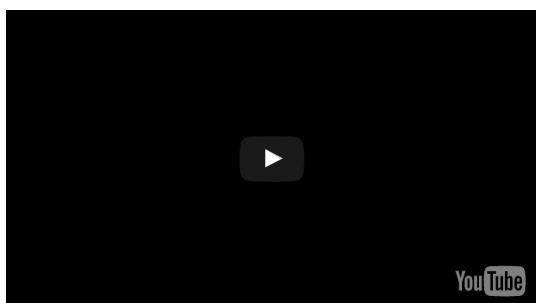
Totally unnatural

Totally natural

Drag the slider



Now watch the same unfinished sentence followed by continuation B:



Continuation B could've been OK on its own, as a standalone utterance, but as a continuation to this unfinished sentence it is unnatural for most speakers of English, because the speaker in the video uses the same gesture for 'small' in the continuation that he used for 'large' in the unfinished sentence. If you, too, find it unnatural, you might want to judge it quite low on the naturalness scale, for example:

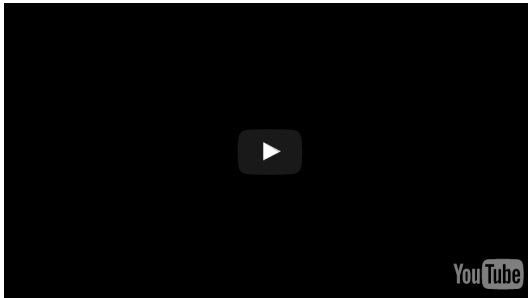
Totally unnatural

Totally natural

Drag the slider



Finally, watch the same unfinished sentence followed by continuation C:




This continuation is also weird for many speakers of English. In the unfinished sentence the speaker puts emphasis on 'large', suggesting that the continuation is likely to be about the size of the fish Mike did catch. The continuation, however, is about Alice. It is perhaps not unfathomable that the speaker might eventually decide to talk about the fish Alice caught, but the unfinished sentence still remains in some sense unfinished. Some speakers might want to rate this sentence as marginal on the naturalness scale, but closer to the low end (once again, your judgements might be different), for example:

Totally unnatural

Totally natural

Drag the slider



In order to get paid, please make sure that you complete all 18 trials.

Appendix B. List of examples

Here I list the sentences used in the video stimuli and in the example videos for the instructions. No illustrations are provided for the gestures. Please find all the videos used in the experiment, including the example

videos from the instructions, here: <https://tinyurl.com/at-issue-gestures-stimuli>.

Example videos from the instructions

- (1) Mike didn't catch a large^{LARGE} fish...
- ...he caught a small^{SMALL} fish.
 - ...he caught a small^{LARGE} fish.
 - ...Alice caught a large^{LARGE} fish.

Video stimuli

In each pair below (a) is a Gestural Contrast example, and (b) is a Verbal Contrast one.

Shape gestures

- (2) Kate only collects ashtrays^{SQUARE} ...
- ...she doesn't collect ashtrays^{ROUND}.
 - ...she doesn't collect coasters^{SQUARE}.
- (3) On this wall Bill might hang a picture^{SQUARE} ...
- ...or a picture^{ROUND}.
 - ...or a clock^{SQUARE}.
- (4) Anna's unlikely to build a pool^{SQUARE} ...
- ...but she might build a pool^{ROUND}.
 - ...but she might build a deck^{SQUARE}.
- (5) In front of the couch Tim might put a table^{SQUARE} ...
- ...or a table^{ROUND}.
 - ...or an ottoman^{SQUARE}.

Size gestures

- (6) John might order a beer^{SMALL} ...
- ...or a beer^{LARGE}.
 - ...or a cocktail^{SMALL}.

- (7) Emma's unlikely to play with a car^{SMALL} ...
a. ...but she might play with a car^{LARGE}.
b. ...but she might play with a helicopter^{SMALL}.
- (8) They only hire dancers^{TALL} ...
a. ...they don't hire dancers^{SHORT}.
b. ...they don't hire athletes^{TALL}.
- (9) Dan might buy a dog^{SMALL} ...
a. ...but he's unlikely to buy a dog^{LARGE}.
b. ...but he's unlikely to buy a cat^{SMALL}.