

Center for Cognitive Science

University at Buffalo, State University of New York

Wednesday, March 8, 2006

280 Park Hall

North Campus

2:00 pm -4:00 pm

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University at Buffalo

Frequency of Basic English Grammatical Structures: A Corpus Analysis

Many recent models of language comprehension have stressed the role of distributional frequencies in determining the relative accessibility or ease of processing associated with a particular lexical item or sentence structure. However, there exist relatively few comprehensive analyses of structural frequencies, and little consideration has been given to the appropriateness of using any particular set of corpus frequencies in modeling human language. We provide a comprehensive set of structural frequencies for a variety of written and spoken corpora, focusing on structures that have played a critical role in debates on normal psycholinguistics, aphasia, and child language acquisition, and compare our results with those from several recent papers to illustrate the implications and limitations of using corpus data in psycholinguistic research.

Refreshments will be available

Open to the public

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