

Title: *Are High and Low Applicatives processed differently?*

Summary: In the last two decades, generative linguistics has explored in great detail the nature and syntactic behavior of applicatives and applied datives. In most proposals, two basic applicatives and applied dative types have been distinguished: High Applicatives (High Appls) v Low Applicatives (Low Appls) (Pylkkänen 2000, 2008 [2002] among many others). In particular, Pylkkänen proposes that High Appl heads denote a relation between an event and an individual and Low Appl heads a relation between two individuals. In the former case, the dative argument is interpreted as the experiencer of alternatively as the benefactive of the event; in the latter, as the goal/source of the direct object of the verb. This distinction of two basic types of applied datives is syntactically supported by Basque agreement data, as Low Appls show optional dative agreement in both verbal and non-verbal contexts whereas high applicatives do not (for optional dative agreement in north-eastern varieties of Basque, see Etxepare & Oihartzabal 2013; Fernandez, Ortiz de Urbina & Landa, 2009 among others). In this research work, we aim to explore whether this different syntactic behavior is also reflected in different processing patterns during online language comprehension. For that purpose we are designing a self-paced reading experiment in which we aim to test whether dative agreement violations are processed differently in high vs. low applicative dative verbs.

References

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