

How people establish reference in three-party conversation

Xiaobei Zheng, Zhi Xia, Yuxiu Han
Shenzhen University, China



Introduction

- In conversation, in addition to using previous linguistic context, participants are also expected to make use of information that was previously shared.
- Studies showed that perspective taking is also influenced by many factors, such as memory representation, situation, and linguistic description.
- The present study intends to explore whether and how the presence of a third person will influence people's perspective-taking.

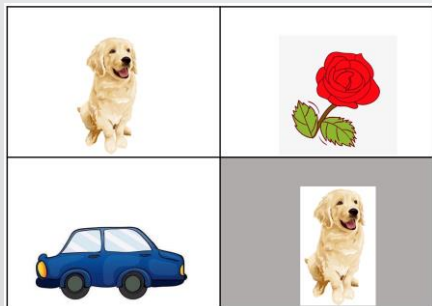


Method

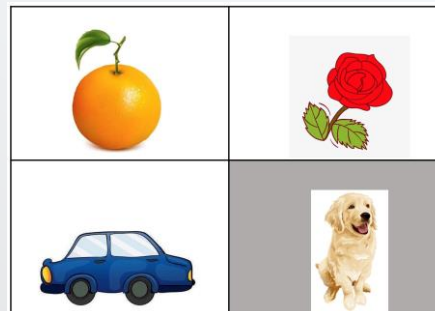
Participants:

- 60 Mandarin-speaking adults.

Design:



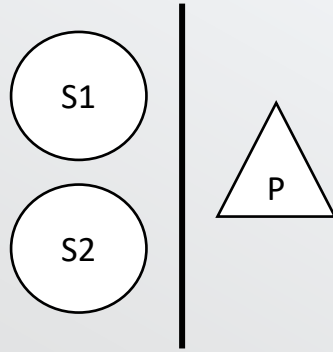
competitor condition



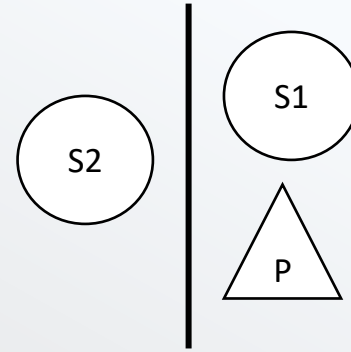
non-competitor condition

The objects in the grey grids are only visible to the participants, while the objects in the white grids are visible on both sides.





non-sharing condition

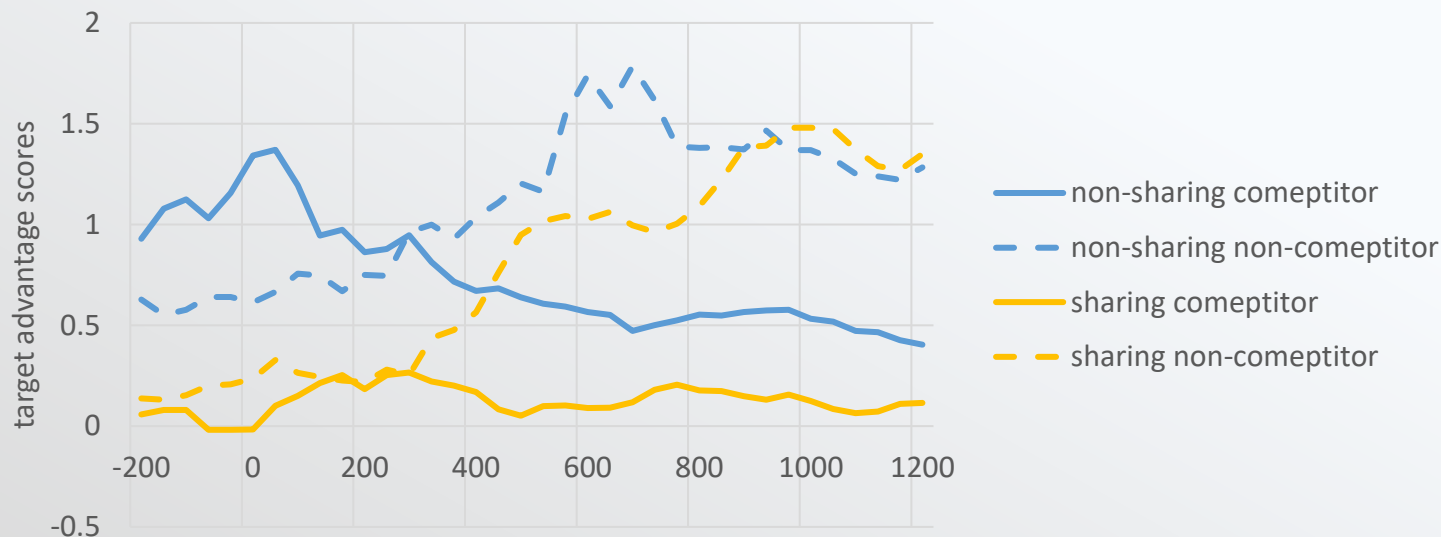


sharing condition

The shareability condition was based on Experimenter 1 (E1)'s perspective.



Result



- In the non-competitor condition, there was no difference between sharing and non-sharing conditions.
- In the competitor condition, there was a larger target preference in the non-shared condition than in the shared condition, $p < 0.001$.



Conclusion

- Here we can see that addressees may also interpret their partners' speech based on the more knowledgeable person, instead of making a separate interpretation of each individual.
- In a multiparty conversation, a speaker may design their speech based on the knowledge of the most ignorant partner (Yoon & Brown-Schmidt, 2018).



Thank you!

