

Preface

Most first books originate from experience of teaching. The idea of this book probably originated when I started examining the interaction of language and vision few years ago at the Centre of Behavioural and Cognitive Sciences, University of Allahabad and later at the Centre for Neural and Cognitive Sciences, University of Hyderabad. I used eye tracking to link linguistic processing with visual and attentional processes as my main method. Soon it was clear to me that language and attention interaction was dynamic, way beyond what many Psycholinguistic textbooks had taught me. This led to further research and teaching in and around these topics and also very fruitful collaborations that have been instrumental in the conceptualization of this book. As a psycholinguist it was important for me to comprehend fully the enormously important framework of cognitive psychology. Ideas of various chapters came later with my own diversification as a researcher and also with the rapid explosion of research in the last decade. They all had to be summarized in some sense, at least for the beginning student and also for the expert as a point of view.

I have reviewed others' work as far as I was aware of them and I could connect to their relevance in each chapter. I have used figures and illustrations from several sources to enrich comprehension which I assume the interdisciplinary student will find helpful. I did not intend to write a textbook on psycholinguistics in the disguise of a monograph since many good textbooks already exist. My own findings appear sporadically at many places. In no sense this selection of literature is complete or can be complete. This is an exciting and dynamic area of research and every other day new findings are coming in. Every other day one finds papers published in each one of the areas that this book has covered. It is a field that is moving at a very rapid pace at the moment. I have tried to provide an overall sense of achievement and concern to the reader that I have felt myself for themes covered here without often sounding like a text book writer.

Many collaborators and colleagues have read chapters and have commented on drafts. I only hope that I could take advantage of their advice. Most remaining flaws are mine. I particularly wish to thank Raymond Klein, Daniel Burnston, Cristian

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I must also thank the anonymous reviewer of the manuscript whose comments and observations led to a much improved manuscript in many ways.

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