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Complexity Factors in Adjunct Parasitic Gaps

I investigated different adjunct parasitic gaps (Pgaps) for the effect of tensedness, overt subject, and different adverbs preceding the adjuncts. Elaborating on Engdahl's (1983) hierarchy of accessibility, I pursued a categorization of Pgaps that exceeds plain description. Hence, my study focused on processing aspects of Pgaps to explain differences in acceptability judgments in terms of complexity factors (CFs). This idea grounds on Culicover's (2008) claim that different CFs can encumber/prevent the construction of dependency chains. My two experiments support this idea with quantifiably evidence. They tested tensedness and overt subject as CFs for the temporal adverb domain; the occurrence of tensedness and overt subject as one factor in which both co-occur, rather than two individual factors; and the universality of the effect of tensedness and overt subject in all adjunct Pgaps and structure-independently. The findings revealed a structure-dependent pattern that can be explained by accumulation and interaction of different CFs.