

UC Merced

Proceedings of the Annual Meeting of the Cognitive Science Society

Title

The influence of credibility in the representation of conditionals, tested by two tasks: choosing and evaluating situations.

Permalink

<https://escholarship.org/uc/item/0dq613zj>

Journal

Proceedings of the Annual Meeting of the Cognitive Science Society, 31(31)

ISSN

1069-7977

Authors

Moreno-Rios, Sergio
Rodriguez-Gualda, Isabel

Publication Date

2009

Peer reviewed

The influence of credibility in the representation of conditionals, tested by two tasks: choosing and evaluating situations.

Isabel Rodríguez-Gualda
Universidad de Granada, "UGR"

Sergio Moreno-Ríos
Universidad de Granada, "UGR"

Abstract: The influence of credibility in the representation of conditionals, tested by two tasks: choosing and evaluating situations.

Isabel Rodríguez-Gualda* & Sergio Moreno-Ríos
Facultad de Psicología. Universidad de Granada. (Spain)
*isargual@ugr.es

Does the relationship established in a conditional influence its representation? Colloquial sentences such as "if a person climb many steps, s/he will be tired" may be more credible and probable than others such as "if a person climbs a few steps, s/he will be tired". The aim of this study is to try to evaluate whether the plausibility of the relation expressed in a conditional influences its comprehension. Participants were shown two kinds of conditionals with four situations in which the antecedent and the consequent could be affirmed or negated. In one task, participants had to choose the situation consistent with the meaning of the conditional. In the other task, they had to evaluate the semantic consistency of each of the four situations. The results for the two tasks show differences in the influence of the content in the representation of the conditional. These results are discussed according to the main theoretical models.