

UC Merced

Proceedings of the Annual Meeting of the Cognitive Science Society

Title

Evidence from eye-tracking on the processing of quotation marks in German

Permalink

<https://escholarship.org/uc/item/0tn7x8g1>

Journal

Proceedings of the Annual Meeting of the Cognitive Science Society, 46(0)

Authors

Raue, Natascha

Haertl, Holden

Cortés Rodríguez, Alvaro

Publication Date

2024

Copyright Information

This work is made available under the terms of a Creative Commons Attribution License, available at <https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/>

Peer reviewed

Evidence from eye-tracking on the processing of quotation marks in German

Natascha Raue

University of Kassel, Kassel, Germany

Holden Haertl

University of Kassel, Kassel, Germany

Alvaro Cortés Rodríguez

University of Potsdam, Potsdam, Germany

Abstract

Quotational constructions as in 'This phenomenon is called "moonbow"' involve predicates like *call* and are used to introduce a lexicalized word, i.e. "moonbow", to the addressee. The name of a lexicalized concept is mentioned which is why we refer to this type of sentential construction as a name-mentioning construction (NMC). Although there is substantial philosophical research on the notion of quotation, empirical evidence is sparse. In our empirical investigation, we use eye-tracking data to look into the nature of the processing of quotation marks in NMCs. The results of Linear Mixed Models indicate that there is no statistically significant difference for early eye-tracking measures, but a significant effect for the expression in the target Interest Area Dwell Time. Words enclosed in quotation marks are processed longer than target words without quotes. We argue that our findings suggest the involvement of higher cognitive processes in the processing of quotes.