

Locality, Event-construal and Extraction: Evidence from Language Processing

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Much experimental work investigates whether ‘syntactic island’ constraints are active during parsing (Stowe, 1986; Bourdages, 1992; Traxler & Pickering, 1996; Wagers & Phillips, to appear). I present two experiments testing pseudo-coordination constructions (I went and bought a computer), constructions that describe a single event (de Vos, 2005) and permit asymmetrical extraction (What did I go and buy?), violating the Coordinate Structure Constraint (Ross, 1967). In contrast to Kehler (2002) and Truswell (2006,2007), I propose event construal only indirectly licenses extraction. Two independent constraints must be jointly satisfied – a semantic constraint on Aspect and a syntactic locality constraint on movement.