



WIENER SPRACHGESELLSCHAFT



Die Wiener Sprachgesellschaft ladet ein

zu einem Vortrag von

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&

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**When Pragmatics Helps Syntax:  
An Eye Tracking Study on Scope Ambiguity Resolution  
in 4- to 5-Year-Old Children**

An eye-tracking and comprehension study will be presented, investigating the 4- to 5-year-old children's interpretation of structurally ambiguous sentences including a universal quantifier in subject position and negation, as in the following example:

*Alle Piraten sind nicht auf das Schiff zurückgekehrt.*

All of the pirates did not go back to the ship.

From the experimental literature on this topic there is conflicting evidence with respect to whether young children are able to derive both surface- and inverse-scope interpretation of (1). Our results show that German 4- to 5-year-old speaking children not only manage to derive the inverse scope of (1) (i.e. not all of the pirates went back to the ship) in the absence of any pragmatic or phonological bias, but also that poor comprehenders display a facilitation for the inverse scope with respect to the surface scope interpretation. We will discuss these results in light of semantic and pragmatic theories of scope ambiguity and scalar implicatures.

Zeit: Dienstag, 14. Juni 2016, 18 Uhr 30

Ort: Sensengasse 3a, Hörsaal 1 (1. Stock)

B. Seidlhofer m. p.

H. Ch. Luschützky m. p.