# Left and right dislocation across bridging types

**Lisa Brunetti**

1Univ. Paris-Diderot/CNRS; 2Univ. Pompeu Fabra; 3Univ. Autònoma de Barcelona

**Goal and Hypothesis**

Our goal is to understand how the different information functions of LDs and RDs interact with different bridging contexts. We will test the hypothesis that ‘bridging distance’ between a dislocated referent and its antecedent correlates with dislocation types: near-identity bridges (EPITHETs, HYPERNYMns) would favor RD, whereas non-identity bridges (SET MEMBERSHIP, NECESSARY PART, and OPTIONAL PART) would favor LD.

## Experiment 1:

- **A judgment task** involving (direct object) **dislocations** (LD or RD) in five bridging contexts: HYPERNYM, SET MEMBERSHIP, EPITHET, NECESSARY PART, and OPTIONAL PART. 29 native Catalan speakers evaluated 30 written target items (context sentence followed by LD or RD, presented at the same time) over a 10-point Likert scale. 1920 answers were collected. Online at Ibex Farm.

## Results (Fig. 1):

- Linear mixed-effects model (answer variable=score, random factors=participant, item, independent variables=bridging type, dislocation type):
  - highly significant effect (p<0.0001) for dislocation type: RD is preferred to LD (best rated option in all bridging types, except for NECESSARY PART and SET MEMBERSHIP, Fig. 1).
  - highly significant (p<0.0001) interaction between bridging type and dislocation: EPITHET, HYPERNYM, and OPTIONAL ROLE receive higher ratings with RD than LD does.

## Experiment 2:

- **A judgment task** involving (direct object) **dislocations** (LD or RD) in five bridging contexts: HYPERNYM, SET MEMBERSHIP, EPITHET, NECESSARY PART, and OPTIONAL PART. The **grammatical function** of the bridging antecedent (subj or obj) also varied. 47 native Catalan speakers evaluated 30 both **written and oral target items** (context sentence followed by either LD or RD) over a 10-point Likert scale. All items were checked for always involving a subordinate rhetoric relation. Each informant was presented with a randomized different list of target items. 1420 answers were collected. Online at Ibex Farm.

## Results (Fig. 2):

- No significant difference between models with and without grammatical function (Pr 0.4963 > Chi² 0.4628).
- Linear mixed-effects models show a highly significant (p<0.0001) interaction between bridging type and dislocation: LD in SET MEMBERSHIP, NECESSARY PART and OPTIONAL PART receives higher ratings than RD does. RD in EPITHET and HYPERNYM receives higher ratings than LD does.

## Discussion

While Exp 1 shows that RD scores are significantly higher than LD scores overall, even in bridging cases typically suited for LD, Exp 2 does not seem to confirm this result. While LD ratings are very similar, LD ones are much better in Exp 2. This may be due to the presence of auditory stimuli in Exp 2, which for instance might have favored a contrastive reading of the LD (and hence made LD more acceptable, [4]). We leave the testing of this hypothesis to future research.

The hypothesis that ‘bridging distance’ between a dislocated referent and its antecedent correlates with dislocation is confirmed in both experiments: RD is rated higher with EPITHETS and HYPERNYMS [5], and LD is rated higher with OPTIONAL/NECESSARY PART and SET MEMBERSHIP [cf. [2]]. Both experiments show that poset relations cannot be the key factor underlying LD (against [3]): leaving aside OPTIONAL ROLE, all bridging types are poset relations, but still RD rates better than LD with EPITHET and HYPERNYM, which are highly salient poset relations.

## Conclusions

There is a correlation between bridging types and dislocation types:
- near-identity or RD (cf. [6])
- non-identity or LD

Posets are not the key factor favoring LD.

Control for prosody and discourse relation affects the results of Exp2.

## References


## Acknowledgments

We are thankful to Doriana Gras for help running the experiments. Lisa Brunetti and Xavier Villalba also thank the financial support of the MINECO research project FF12014-52015 awarded to the UAB.