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Reexamining island sensitivity in Japanese complex NP islands with argument *wh-in-situ*

Overview: This study reexamines the status of complex NP (CNP) islands with argument *wh-in-situ* in Japanese. Contrary to the previous view that argument *wh-in-situ* in Japanese is not island sensitive, the results from four formal acceptability judgment experiments using a factorial definition of island effects showed subliminal island effects with relative clauses (RCs) and noun complements (NCs) with *wh-in-situ*, but not with binding dependencies.

(2) Example sentences from Experiments 4A 4C

    a. Relative clause | matrix/embedded *wh-in-situ*

       [Yûka/**dare**-ga e_i satueisita eiga$_i$]-o **dare**/Yûta-ga syôkai-simasita **ka**?

       Y/who-NOM   filmed   movie-ACC who/Y-NOM   introduction-gave Q

                                          /

    b. Relative clause | no cataphora/cataphora

       [Misaki/**zibun**-ga e_i kaita syôsetu$_i$]-o Tatuya-ga syôkai-simasita ka?

       M/self-NOM   wrote novel-ACC T-NOM   introduction-gave Q

              $_i$ introduce the novel that Misaki/self$_i$

Table 1. Factorial designs in all experiments.

Exp.	STRUCTURE	DEPENDENCY
1	declarative CP/relative clause	no *wh-in-situ* (*yes-no* question) / *wh-in-situ* (*wh*-question)
2	declarative CP/noun complement	no *wh-in-situ* (*yes-no* question) / *wh-in-situ* (*wh*-question)
3	noun complement/relative clause	no *wh-in-situ* (*yes-no* question) / *wh-in-situ* (*wh*-question)
4A	declarative CP/relative clause	matrix *wh-in-situ* / embedded *wh-in-situ*
4B	declarative CP/noun complement	matrix *wh-in-situ* / embedded *wh-in-situ*
4C	declarative CP/relative clause	cataphora / no cataphora

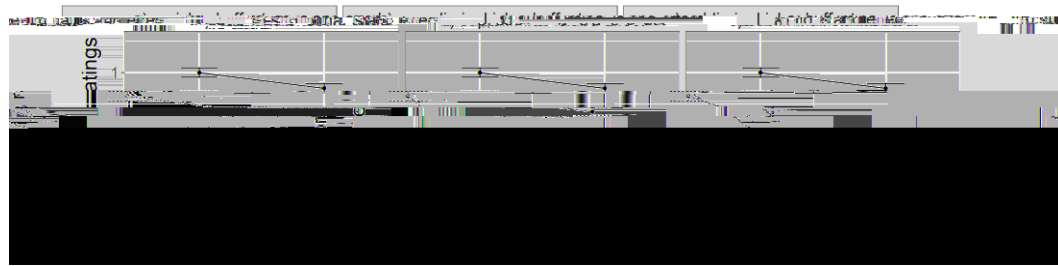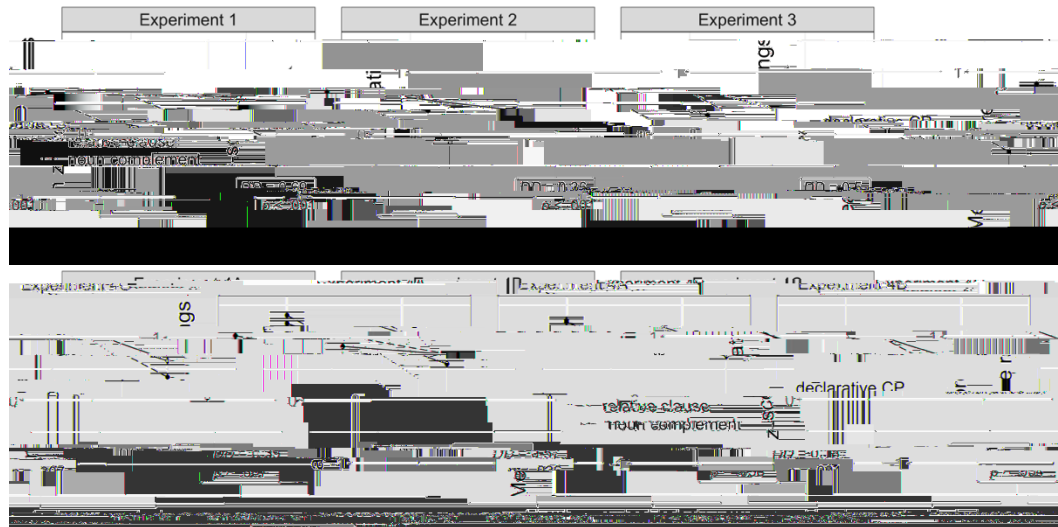**Figure 1.** The patterns predicted for Experiment 1

Figure 2. Interaction plots (points: conditional means; error bars: standard errors), DD scores, and *p*-values for STRUCTURE×DEPENDENCY in a linear mixed effects model

References: [1] Nishigauchi (1986) *Quantification in Syntax.* UMass Amherst Dissertation. [2] Lee (2018) *Linguist Res 35*: 483 511. [3] Lee & Park (2015) *PACLIC29 Proceedings*: 240 249. [4] Lu, Thompson, & Yoshida (2020) *Linguist Inq 51*: 611 623. [5] Nguyen (2021) *PACLIC35 Proceedings*: 89 98. [6] Tanaka & Schwartz (2018) *BUCLD 42 Proceedings*:   [7] Sprouse, Fukuda, Ono, & Kluender (2011) *Syntax 14*:   [8] Almeida (2014) *Revista da ABRALIN 13*:   [9] Keshev & Meltzer-Asscher (2019) *Nat Lang Linguist Th 37*: