

Myung Hye Yoo
National University of Singapore

So Young Lee
Miami University

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9: + 1 & ' 4 / (1 * ' + ; During dependency formations, parsers integrate the filler into its gap site for argument assignments. The present study investigates the effect of the filler on the dependency resolution process.

thematic roles (e.g., *enc* age (V); *n* -agen *bjec* (NP1); *child-heme* *bjec* (NP2)). Experimental materials consisted of 16 sets of 4 items in each condition, and each item was followed by a comprehension question. The average reading times for critical regions are shown in Figure 1.

The critical region is the higher head noun region where the long-distance filler integrates into its gap. We found that the reading time was significantly longer in condition (c: inconsistent-consistent), where both lower and higher head nouns bear nominative case markers, than in other conditions upon encountering higher head nouns. In spillover regions, there was a main effect of grammatical-role consistency of a lower head noun ($\beta = -4.8$ in spillover1, $\beta = -3.5$ in spillover2, $p < .001$), and the consistency effect of a higher head noun was also observed in spillover 2 regions ($\beta = -2.7$, $p = .01$). The consistency of grammatical role of a lower head noun played a crucial role in the retrieval of the role of a higher head noun. The overall findings suggest immediate encoding