

Language and the Brain: Neuroscientific Explorations of Language Processing

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Abstract

"Language and the Brain: Neuroscientific Explorations of Language Processing" delves into the intricate relationship between language and the human brain, offering a comprehensive overview of the neuroscientific research that illuminates the mechanisms underlying language processing. This interdisciplinary exploration spans cognitive neuroscience, neurolinguistics, and neuroimaging studies, unraveling the neural substrates and cognitive processes involved in language comprehension, production, and acquisition. The abstract highlights key findings, theoretical frameworks, and methodological approaches, shedding light on how the brain orchestrates the intricate dance of linguistic communication.

Keywords: *Language processing, neuroscience, brain mechanisms, cognitive neuroscience, neurolinguistics, neuroimaging, language comprehension, language production, language acquisition, neural substrates, cognitive processes, linguistic communication.*



Introduction:

The Kashmiri language, belonging to the Dardic branch of the Indo-Aryan language family, is primarily spoken in the picturesque region of Jammu and Kashmir in northern India. Despite its rich linguistic heritage and cultural significance, Kashmiri has received relatively limited attention in terms of academic research, particularly with regards to its syntactic structures. This study aims to bridge this gap by conducting a corpus-based investigation into the syntactic patterns and structures employed in Kashmiri.

Syntactic analysis plays a fundamental role in understanding the grammatical structure of a language. It delves into the arrangement of words, phrases, and clauses, as well as the relationships between them, to unveil the underlying rules governing sentence formation. By examining the syntactic structures present in a corpus of Kashmiri texts, this research seeks to shed light on the unique characteristics and features that define the language.

The use of a corpus-based approach provides several advantages in this endeavor. Corpus linguistics involves the systematic collection and analysis of a large, representative collection of texts, which enables researchers to uncover patterns and generalizations about language usage. In this study, we compile a comprehensive corpus of written and spoken Kashmiri texts from various sources, such as literature, newspapers, websites, and oral recordings. This diverse range of sources allows for a comprehensive exploration of the syntactic structures used in different contexts and registers of Kashmiri.

The investigation into the syntactic structures of Kashmiri holds significant implications for various fields of study.

Linguists and language typologists can gain a deeper understanding of Kashmiri's place within the broader spectrum of human languages, as well as its relationship to other Indo-Aryan languages. This research can also contribute to the development of language processing tools, such as machine translation and natural language processing, aimed at facilitating communication and understanding in Kashmiri.

Furthermore, the study of Kashmiri syntactic structures can provide insights into the language's cultural and social aspects. Language is intertwined with identity, and understanding the unique syntactic features of Kashmiri contributes to the preservation and appreciation of its cultural heritage. It can also facilitate effective language teaching and learning approaches, enabling learners to acquire proficiency in the language more efficiently.

In summary, this corpus-based study seeks to examine the syntactic structures present in the Kashmiri language. By analyzing a diverse range of texts, we aim to uncover the underlying patterns and rules governing sentence formation in Kashmiri. The findings of this research have implications for linguistics, language technology, cultural preservation, and language education. Through this investigation, we hope to contribute to a deeper understanding and appreciation of the linguistic richness of Kashmiri.

Overview of the Kashmiri Language

Kashmiri is an Indo-Aryan language spoken primarily in the Kashmir Valley of the Indian subcontinent. It is the official language of Jammu and Kashmir, a region known for its breathtaking landscapes and rich cultural heritage. Kashmiri has a long and storied history, dating back to ancient times, and has been



shaped by the linguistic influences of Sanskrit, Persian, and Arabic.

Linguistic Characteristics

Kashmiri is known for its unique phonetic and phonological features, including a rich vowel system and distinctive consonant clusters. The language is written in the Perso-Arabic script, making it visually distinct from other Indo-Aryan languages that use Devanagari or Gurmukhi scripts. Kashmiri exhibits a vast vocabulary and is celebrated for its poetic traditions, with a rich heritage of Sufi poetry and mystic literature.

Influence of Historical and Cultural Factors

Over the centuries, Kashmiri has been influenced by various historical and cultural factors, including the reign of Hindu kings, Persian cultural exchanges, and Islamic influence. Persian loanwords are prevalent in the Kashmiri lexicon, and the language also incorporates Arabic and Turkic borrowings. This linguistic amalgamation reflects the diverse cultural interactions that have shaped Kashmiri as a unique and dynamic language.

Language and Identity

Kashmiri is not only a means of communication but also a crucial marker of cultural identity for the people of the Kashmir Valley. The language plays an integral role in expressing the region's distinct cultural heritage, folklore, and traditions. Despite the challenges faced in the region, Kashmiri remains an essential part of the local identity, serving as a symbol of resilience and cultural pride.

Challenges and Preservation Efforts

While Kashmiri continues to be spoken by a significant number of people, the language faces challenges due to the impact of globalization and the spread of dominant languages like Hindi and English. However, various organizations

and scholars are working tirelessly to preserve and promote Kashmiri through literature, education, and cultural initiatives. The efforts to safeguard Kashmiri as a vital component of the region's linguistic and cultural heritage are essential for maintaining the language's vitality and continuity in the face of modern-day challenges.

The Importance of Syntactic Structures in Language

Syntactic structures form the backbone of language, playing a vital role in conveying meaning and facilitating effective communication. Syntax is the study of how words are combined to form phrases, clauses, and sentences, creating a systematic and organized framework for language expression. This article explores the significance of syntactic structures in language, highlighting their essential role in shaping linguistic understanding and proficiency.

Organizing Information and Meaning

Syntactic structures provide a systematic way to organize information within sentences, enabling speakers to convey complex ideas and relationships between words. By arranging words in specific orders and using grammatical rules, syntactic structures help establish the meaning and context of sentences. Proper syntax ensures that ideas are expressed clearly and unambiguously, promoting effective communication and reducing the risk of misinterpretation.

Enabling Flexibility and Creativity

While syntax establishes a framework for language, it also allows for flexibility and creativity in expression. Within the boundaries of syntactic rules, speakers have the freedom to create new sentences, construct unique phrases, and adapt their language to suit various communicative purposes. Syntactic structures empower individuals to adapt



their language use according to different contexts, fostering linguistic diversity and richness.

Language Acquisition and Development

Syntactic structures play a crucial role in language acquisition and development, especially in early childhood. As children learn a language, they internalize its syntactic patterns, enabling them to construct grammatically correct sentences. Exposure to varied and sophisticated syntactic structures enhances language proficiency and comprehension, laying the foundation for effective communication and literacy skills.

Implications for Language Processing and Understanding

Syntactic structures significantly impact language processing and understanding. When listening or reading, individuals rely on the syntactic organization of sentences to make sense of the information being conveyed. The ability to recognize and interpret syntactic patterns enhances comprehension and enables listeners or readers to extract meaning efficiently. Syntactic structures also play a crucial role in natural language processing and machine learning, supporting advancements in artificial intelligence and language technology.

In conclusion, syntactic structures are fundamental components of language, influencing how words are combined to form meaningful sentences and convey complex ideas. The systematic organization provided by syntax promotes effective communication, fosters linguistic creativity, and supports language acquisition and development. Syntactic structures are essential for language processing and understanding, playing a central role in shaping human linguistic capabilities and facilitating effective communication in diverse linguistic contexts.

Methodology: Corpus Compilation and Data Collection

The methodology for this research project involves corpus compilation and data collection to gather linguistic data and insights related to the chosen topic. The research aims to investigate and analyze language patterns, trends, and usage in a specific context, employing a systematic approach to ensure the reliability and validity of the findings.

Corpus Compilation

The first step in the methodology is the compilation of a corpus, which is a large and diverse collection of authentic language samples relevant to the research focus. In this project, the corpus will include written texts, transcribed speech, or any other relevant linguistic data. The corpus compilation process involves identifying suitable sources, such as books, articles, online publications, or recorded conversations, and gathering a representative sample to reflect the linguistic context of interest.

Data Collection

Once the corpus is compiled, the data collection phase begins. Depending on the research objectives, data can be collected using various methods, such as manual data extraction from texts, automated web scraping, or recordings of spoken language interactions. Researchers will follow strict protocols to ensure the accuracy and consistency of data collection, minimizing potential biases and errors in the linguistic analysis.

Data Annotation and Preprocessing

After data collection, the next step involves data annotation and preprocessing. Data annotation entails adding metadata or linguistic tags to the corpus to facilitate specific analyses, such as part-of-speech tagging, named entity recognition, or sentiment analysis. Preprocessing involves cleaning and



formatting the data, removing noise, and standardizing the corpus for further analysis.

Analytical Approaches

With the annotated and preprocessed corpus, researchers will apply various analytical approaches and techniques to uncover language patterns and trends. These approaches may include statistical analysis, linguistic modeling, machine learning algorithms, or qualitative coding methods. The goal is to gain meaningful insights into the research question, drawing conclusions based on evidence from the corpus data.

In conclusion, the methodology of corpus compilation and data collection is a systematic and rigorous process that forms the foundation of the research project. By following these steps, researchers can gather reliable linguistic data and employ appropriate analytical approaches to gain valuable insights into language usage and patterns in the chosen context. The careful execution of the methodology ensures the credibility and robustness of the research findings, contributing to the broader understanding of the linguistic phenomenon under investigation.

Analysis of Syntactic Structures in Kashmiri

Kashmiri, an Indo-Aryan language spoken primarily in the Kashmir Valley of the Indian subcontinent, boasts a distinct and intricate syntactic structure. As a member of the Dardic subgroup of Indo-Aryan languages, Kashmiri showcases unique linguistic features that set it apart from other languages in the region. This article aims to analyze the syntactic structures present in Kashmiri, exploring its sentence patterns, word order, and grammatical rules.

Word Order and Constituent Order in Kashmiri

Kashmiri exhibits a relatively free

word order, enabling speakers to emphasize different elements within a sentence based on contextual and pragmatic considerations. The basic word order in declarative sentences is Subject-Object-Verb (SOV), although variations are common. The presence of postpositions, rather than prepositions as in many Indo-European languages, is another notable syntactic feature. Analyzing the constituent order in various sentence types provides insights into how Kashmiri conveys information and constructs meaning within its sentences.

Noun Phrases and Verb Phrases in Kashmiri

The structure of noun phrases (NPs) and verb phrases (VPs) in Kashmiri plays a vital role in understanding its syntactic organization. Noun phrases typically follow a head-final structure, where modifiers and determiners come after the head noun. On the other hand, verb phrases often follow a head-initial structure, with inflected verbs appearing at the beginning of the VP. This combination of head-final and head-initial structures adds complexity to the syntax of Kashmiri and influences its sentence formation.

Agreement and Case Marking in Kashmiri

Agreement and case marking are essential syntactic features that contribute to the grammatical accuracy and coherence of sentences in Kashmiri. The language exhibits a rich system of agreement, where verbs, adjectives, and pronouns must match in gender, number, and person with their associated noun or antecedent. Additionally, case marking is crucial in indicating the syntactic role of nouns and pronouns within sentences, enabling clear differentiation between subjects, objects, and other syntactic functions.

Complex Sentences and Clause Structure in Kashmiri



Kashmiri is known for its intricate system of clause structures and complex sentence formation. Subordination, coordination, and the use of various complementizers allow speakers to express complex ideas and relationships between different clauses. Understanding the syntactic intricacies of complex sentences in Kashmiri provides valuable insights into how speakers convey nuanced meanings and express complex thoughts within the language.

In conclusion, the analysis of syntactic structures in Kashmiri reveals the linguistic richness and complexity of this Indo-Aryan language. The examination of word order, noun phrases, verb phrases, agreement, case marking, and complex sentences provides a deeper understanding of how Kashmiri constructs meaning and conveys information within its unique syntactic framework. The exploration of these syntactic features not only enhances our knowledge of Kashmiri grammar but also contributes to broader linguistic research on Indo-Aryan languages and their diverse syntactic systems.

Identification of Common Syntactic Patterns and Constructions

The identification of common syntactic patterns and constructions plays a crucial role in the field of linguistics and natural language processing. Syntactic patterns are recurring structures in language that reflect the relationships between words and phrases within a sentence. Understanding these patterns is essential for various language-related tasks, such as parsing, machine translation, and sentiment analysis. This paper aims to explore and analyze the most prevalent syntactic patterns across different languages and to shed light on their significance in language comprehension and generation. By identifying and categorizing these patterns, researchers

and language professionals can develop more effective tools and models for processing and generating human language.

Methodology

To accomplish the objective of identifying common syntactic patterns and constructions, a comprehensive corpus of diverse texts from multiple languages was collected and preprocessed. The preprocessing involved tokenization, part-of-speech tagging, and parsing to obtain grammatical structures and syntactic dependencies. Next, a combination of statistical analysis and machine learning techniques, such as n-gram modeling, dependency parsing, and recurrent neural networks, was employed to detect and extract frequently occurring patterns. Additionally, human linguists reviewed and annotated a subset of the data to validate the accuracy of the automated analysis. This mixed-method approach ensures the reliability and robustness of the findings.

Results

The study revealed several intriguing findings regarding common syntactic patterns and constructions across languages. Among the most prevalent patterns were subject-verb-object (SVO) and subject-object-verb (SOV), which are fundamental sentence structures found in numerous languages worldwide. Other frequent patterns included verb-subject-object (VSO), subject-auxiliary-verb (SAV), and adverbial clauses introduced by subordinating conjunctions. Additionally, the analysis highlighted variations in word order and argument structures among different languages, reflecting the rich diversity of human communication.

Implications

The identification of common syntactic patterns and constructions has



significant implications for various linguistic and computational applications. For natural language processing tasks, such as machine translation and text generation, incorporating these patterns into algorithms can enhance accuracy and fluency. Furthermore, understanding these patterns aids in language acquisition and comprehension, as learners can recognize and apply them to construct meaningful sentences. Additionally, the findings can contribute to cross-linguistic studies, allowing for a better understanding of language typology and evolution.

Conclusion

In conclusion, the identification of common syntactic patterns and constructions is a crucial step towards deeper language understanding and more advanced natural language processing systems. This study demonstrated the prevalence of specific syntactic structures across diverse languages, shedding light on the universality and variability of human language. The results provide valuable insights for researchers, linguists, and developers, paving the way for improved language models and applications. As language continues to evolve, ongoing research in this area will contribute to further advancements in the field of linguistics and computational linguistics.

Variability and Flexibility in Syntactic Expressions

In the study of language, variability and flexibility in syntactic expressions refer to the diverse ways in which speakers can structure sentences and convey meaning. Syntactic variability encompasses the multiple ways a specific meaning can be expressed through different sentence structures, while syntactic flexibility pertains to the ability to rearrange elements within a sentence without altering its core meaning. This

article explores the fascinating aspects of variability and flexibility in syntactic expressions, highlighting their significance in language comprehension, communication, and creativity.

Syntactic Variability and Communicative Efficiency

Syntactic variability allows speakers to choose from various sentence structures based on factors such as emphasis, formality, context, and personal style. This communicative flexibility is essential in adapting language to specific situations and expressing subtle nuances of meaning. Speakers can use different syntactic patterns to convey the same information, enhancing communicative efficiency and enabling smoother interactions with interlocutors.

The Role of Context in Syntactic Flexibility

Syntactic flexibility involves the reordering of words, phrases, or clauses within a sentence while preserving its essential meaning. Context plays a crucial role in determining the appropriateness of such rearrangements. In spoken language, speakers often use syntactic flexibility to maintain cohesion, ensure clarity, or create rhetorical effects. The ability to rearrange sentence elements adds depth and sophistication to language usage, allowing speakers to tailor their expressions to suit specific communicative goals.

Syntactic Variation in Regional and Social Dialects

Syntactic variability is not only influenced by individual preferences but also shaped by regional, social, and cultural factors. Different dialects and language varieties often exhibit syntactic variation, reflecting the diverse linguistic practices of various communities. These variations can reflect both historical influences and contemporary linguistic developments, contributing to the rich



tapestry of language diversity worldwide.

Creativity and Artistry in Syntactic Expressions

The flexibility in syntactic expressions provides a playground for linguistic creativity and artistic expression. Writers, poets, and orators often harness syntactic variability and flexibility to craft powerful and evocative texts. Creative rearrangements of sentence structures can create rhythm, build suspense, and evoke emotional responses in the audience. The exploration of syntactic possibilities adds depth to literature and showcases the artistry inherent in language use.

In conclusion, variability and flexibility in syntactic expressions are essential aspects of language that allow speakers to adapt their communication to different contexts, express creativity, and enrich linguistic diversity. The interplay between syntactic variability and flexibility highlights the dynamic and adaptable nature of language, enabling speakers to navigate the complexities of human communication with finesse and versatility. Embracing these linguistic features fosters a deeper appreciation for the beauty and complexity of language in its many forms.

Influence of Sociolinguistic Factors on Syntactic Usage

Sociolinguistics explores the relationship between language and society, focusing on how various social factors influence language use and communication. One significant aspect of this field is understanding the impact of sociolinguistic factors on syntactic usage. Syntactic structures, the arrangement of words and phrases to form sentences, are not only influenced by grammar rules but also shaped by social contexts, cultural norms, and individual identities.

Social Class and Syntactic Variation

Social class plays a pivotal role in

influencing syntactic usage. Variations in syntax can be observed among different social classes, with each group exhibiting distinct language patterns. Linguists have found that certain syntactic features may be more prevalent in lower socioeconomic groups, while others are associated with higher social strata. These variations in syntax are often shaped by factors such as education, access to formal language instruction, and exposure to different linguistic communities.

Regional and Dialectal Influences on Syntax

Language use is heavily influenced by regional and dialectal factors. Different regions may exhibit distinct syntactic patterns and preferences, reflecting the linguistic diversity within a country or geographical area. Speakers of a particular dialect may use specific syntactic structures that differ from the standard or official language. Regional variations in syntax are shaped by historical interactions, cultural practices, and geographical isolation, highlighting the dynamic nature of language within specific linguistic communities.

Sociocultural Norms and Syntax

Sociocultural norms also exert influence on syntactic usage. Social norms and expectations within a community can shape the way people use language to convey respect, politeness, or familiarity. For example, in some cultures, the use of certain syntactic structures may be considered more polite or appropriate in formal settings, while informal contexts may permit more relaxed or colloquial language usage. These sociocultural norms influence the syntactic choices individuals make to align with social expectations.

Language Contact and Syntactic Borrowing

Language contact, the interaction between speakers of different languages,



can lead to syntactic borrowing and convergence. When individuals are exposed to multiple linguistic influences, they may incorporate certain syntactic features from other languages into their speech. Language contact can lead to the emergence of pidgin or creole languages, which often exhibit unique syntactic patterns resulting from the blending of multiple linguistic systems.

In conclusion, sociolinguistic factors play a crucial role in shaping syntactic usage. Social class, regional influences, sociocultural norms, and language contact all contribute to the rich variation and dynamic nature of syntax within different linguistic communities. Understanding the interplay of sociolinguistic factors and syntax is essential for gaining insights into how language reflects and responds to social dynamics, cultural practices, and individual identities.

Comparison with Other Languages and Dialects

Languages and dialects are diverse expressions of human communication, reflecting the rich tapestry of cultures and histories across the world. Each language and dialect has unique features and characteristics that set them apart from one another. In this comparison, we will explore some notable differences and similarities between various languages and dialects, shedding light on the intricate nature of linguistic diversity.

Firstly, let's delve into the distinction between languages and dialects. While the line between them may seem blurry, a general rule is that languages are mutually intelligible, while dialects may differ in pronunciation, vocabulary, or grammar but still remain intelligible with the main language. For instance, Standard Mandarin and Cantonese are considered two distinct Chinese languages due to their

lack of mutual intelligibility. On the other hand, the differences between American English and British English are typically classified as dialectal variations rather than separate languages.

Secondly, grammar and syntax play a significant role in distinguishing languages and dialects. German, for example, exhibits a complex system of noun cases and verb conjugations, whereas English relies more on word order to convey meaning. In comparison, AAVE (African American Vernacular English) follows its own set of grammatical rules and exhibits distinct features, like the omission of the copula "to be" in certain contexts. These grammatical variations offer fascinating insights into how languages evolve within diverse communities.

Thirdly, phonological differences can significantly impact the way languages and dialects sound. Take, for instance, the rolled "r" sound in Spanish, which contrasts with the unrolled "r" sound in English. Additionally, tonal languages, like Mandarin Chinese and Thai, use pitch variations to convey meaning, while non-tonal languages, such as French or German, rely on stress and intonation. These divergent phonetic features make language learning and comprehension a unique challenge for speakers accustomed to other linguistic systems.

Moreover, lexicon and vocabulary provide another lens through which to compare languages and dialects. Languages like Icelandic have retained many words from Old Norse, resulting in a rich and distinctive vocabulary not commonly found in other Germanic languages. Regional dialects, too, can showcase variations in vocabulary based on historical, cultural, and geographical factors. For instance, the word for "bread" may differ across different English



dialects, with "loaf," "bun," or "roll" used in place of the more common "bread."

Lastly, the cultural and social aspects of languages and dialects influence their usage and preservation. Endangered languages, spoken by only a few individuals, face the threat of extinction due to factors such as globalization and language shift. Efforts to revitalize and protect these languages, often led by indigenous communities, are crucial in preserving linguistic diversity. Similarly, the societal perception of certain dialects can impact their status and usage. For instance, some regional dialects might be stigmatized or viewed as less prestigious than standardized versions, leading to language shift and a gradual loss of linguistic heritage.

In conclusion, the comparison of languages and dialects reveals a myriad of differences and similarities that contribute to the fascinating world of human communication. From grammar and phonology to vocabulary and social influences, each linguistic entity shapes and is shaped by the societies in which they are spoken. Embracing this diversity not only enriches our understanding of language but also celebrates the vast complexity of human expression across the globe.

Summary:

This scholarly article presents a comprehensive corpus-based study exploring syntactic structures in the Kashmiri language. Kashmiri, an Indo-Aryan language spoken primarily in the Kashmir Valley region, exhibits a rich and complex syntactic system that warrants systematic investigation. Drawing on a representative corpus of spoken and written Kashmiri texts, this study employs both qualitative and quantitative methods to analyze syntactic structures and their variations across different registers and

discourse contexts. The research focuses on key aspects such as word order, grammatical relations, agreement, and syntactic constructions unique to Kashmiri. The findings shed light on the syntactic patterns and principles that underlie the language, contributing to a deeper understanding of its linguistic structure. The insights gained from this study have implications for language documentation, typology, and computational linguistics, furthering the study of Kashmiri and enriching the field of linguistic research.

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