

## Communication and Processing of Mixed-Viewpoint Situations: 'Ready-Mades' versus Online Constructions

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In blending theory, mixed-viewpoint situations are conceived of as blended spaces: they are the result of a process in which two 'inputs' with an established conceptual structure are integrated into a new, emergent structure, the blend (cf. Coulson 2001; Dancygier 2012; Dancygier & Sweetser). The blend has structural properties inherited from the inputs and new structure of its own. In this sense, blending implies both a *constructional process* and a sense of *newness* of the emerged result. However, from a processing point of view, there are two routes to arrive at a blended space: it can (1) be constructed online, or (2) as a whole be retrieved from long-term memory.

Whether route (1) or (2) applies in a specific case depends on (i.a.) the choice of linguistic prompts (words, constructions, and narrative practices (cf. Dancygier 2012)). For example, informing someone about a situation in which, say, Mary wants to mislead Kate, can be done by stating that "Mary says Y while she knows that Y does not hold, for she doesn't want Kate to know that she in fact intends X", but also by stating that "Mary misleadingly tells Kate Y". Because the word 'mislead' implies a certain *topology of mind-states* (B does not know whether Y; A knows that not-Y; A doesn't want B to know that A intends X), the listener can map Mary and Kate directly onto the positions in the topology, without having to process their viewpoints 'ab ovo'.

I assume that the use of the word 'mislead' is more likely to correspond to the retrieval of a blended configuration that is already present as a *whole* in memory, whereas the expression "she says Y, for she doesn't want him to know that she in fact intends X" is more likely to correspond to online construction of the blend. In addition, I assume that online construction demands a higher investment of cognitive energy than retrieving a blend 'ready-made' from memory (getting a blend stored ready-made in memory, however, takes an investment of cognitive energy at one or several moments preceding the given moment of interaction).

Starting from these assumptions, one expects an optimum to emerge, both on an individual and a population level, between having a set of blends stored ready-made and leaving others for online construction. In order to elaborate this idea, I discuss the use of (subject-oriented) sentence adverbs such as 'misleadingly', based on data from corpora of spoken and written discourse. In particular, I address the circumstances under which they occur, and their contribution to both effective communication and ease of processing.

This paper supports a research framework of cultural evolution (Tomasello 1999; Mesoudi 2011), in which ready-mades can be considered culturally transmitted devices that *both* alleviate the burden of processing multiple-viewpoint-situations cognitively, *and* facilitate efficient communication of social information (cf. Dunbar 2003).

### References

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