The spatial role of verbs in embodied language processing

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Abstract

Psycholinguistic studies are now more frequently considering the role of embodied information in language processing. While the perceptual features of nouns lend themselves well to cataloguing and norming, verbs also contain important perceptual information that may be useful to researchers. We present preliminary analyses of an ongoing study norming the directionality and strength of motion implied by verbs in three dimensions. We sought to assess the convergent and divergent validity of our pilot database using data derived from other psycholinguistic norm databases and distributional semantic techniques. Results suggest that this norming method is supported by convergent validity while capturing unique psycholinguistic information. More specifically, these norms may contribute to stimulus selection and refinement, generating computational representations of verbs, and novel research designs in future studies.

In M. Goldwater, F. K. Anggoro, B. K. Hayes, & D. C. Ong (Eds.), *Proceedings of the 45th Annual Conference of the Cognitive Science Society.*