

ABSTRACT

Language production is an inherently incremental process, yet the extent to which speakers plan ahead before articulation varies across languages. This thesis examines how the grammatical structure of a language determines planning scope, influencing the degree of incrementality in sentence production. The investigation focuses on two critical processes unfolding during production: **verb planning** and **linearization**, using Hindi — an S-O-V language, as the primary empirical ground. The two processes are tested in the context of Hindi’s unique structural properties, including aspect-induced case splits, verb-dependent ergativity, word order scrambling, right-extraposed and object-fronted constructions, as well as pre-nominal and post-nominal modifications.

Through a series of six experiments spanning across three chapters, the thesis addresses two key questions: (1) When are verbs planned during production, and how do different types of linguistic dependencies influence the extent of verb planning? (2) What factors determine word order during production, and how do grammatical properties of a language determine their influence? The findings provide novel insights into the flexibility and constraints in sentence planning demonstrating that incrementality is not only shaped by typological differences across languages but also by structural variations within a single language. Results from this thesis underscore the need for fine-grained grammatical distinctions in cross-linguistic studies of production.