

Implicature of complex sentences: a comprehensive study and a model

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In a series of experiments on implicature arising from complex sentences of the form 'some of the girls found some of their marbles, and none found all', we acquired a corpus of production and interpretation data on about 100 different sentences built up from 'none/some/all . . . none/some/all/some but not all,' which makes it the first comprehensive study on implicature in complex sentences. We present an algorithmic model that explains why certain of these sentences do reliably communicate the state of the world, and why others do not. The model is inspired by computational (Reiter and Dale, 2000) and cognitive models (Levelt, 1989) of language generation.