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Title: The Acquisition of Reference and Anaphora Resolution

Referring to entities is a fundamental issue in communication. To refer to persons and things in the world, speakers can opt for different kinds of referential expressions (e.g. proper names, noun phrases, apposition, overt and null pronouns, etc.). Next to this production part, there is also a receptive side of communication, since listeners have to be able to select the correct referent in line with the speaker's intention. When acquiring, processing and resolving reference, several parameters are involved, such as the information status (topic/focus), the syntactic position of the referent and antecedent, the accessibility of the referent, the presence of potential or competing antecedents, the distance between the referential expression and its antecedent, etc. An aspect of particular interest can be the contrast between pro-drop (e.g. Spanish) and non-pro-drop languages (e.g. English) and how language learners with one background perform in a different language.

In sum, this topic addresses reference and anaphora resolution from a corpus based and/or experimental approach and with native speakers' discourse and/or language learners' oral or written productions.

An Vande Castele belongs to the research group "Centre for Linguistics", a leading centre for research on multilingualism and second language teaching. She welcomes researchers interested in this field to discuss ideas for the submission of a research proposal.

Research group: Centre for Linguistics - CLIN <https://clin.research.vub.be/>

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