1. Parsing filler-gap dependencies (FGDs)
- Link filler with gap before any evidence about gap’s position in real-time.
- Evidence mostly from verb-medial and verb-final languages, like English [1], Dutch [2], and Japanese [3].
- Evidence from verb-initial Chamorro: predictive gap-filling only with disambiguating WH-agreement morphology [4].
- Why study Tagalog?
  - Like Chamorro:Tagalog is verb-initial and has rich agreement.
  - Unlike Chamorro: agreement is not confined to only FGDs.

2. Morphological cues in Tagalog
- Generally, verbs agree with the subject (S) or the object (O)\(^*\).
  1. \(\text{<um>|ipa ng|baba|ang|bata}\) - \(\text{um}\) signals S-agreement
     - kick <\text{AGR}:S\>
     - woman \(\text{child}\)
     - ‘The child kicked a woman.’
  2. \(\text{<dopa|ipa ng|bata|ang|baba}\) - \(\text{in}\) signals O-agreement
     - kick <\text{AGR}:O\>
     - child \(\text{woman}\)
     - ‘The child kicked the woman.’
- The only extractable argument is the one the verb agrees with.
  3. \(\text{Aling|bata|ang|<um|ipa ng|baba}\) - S-agreement and S-extraction
     - which child kick <\text{AGR}:S\>
     - woman \(\text{child}\)
     - ‘Which child kicked the woman?’
  4. \(\text{Aling|baba|ang|<dopa|ipa ng|bata}\) - O-agreement and O-extraction
     - which woman kick <\text{AGR}:O\>
     - child \(\text{child}\)
     - ‘Which woman did the child kick?’
- In the iterative and recent perfective aspects, verbs do not exhibit agreement BUT impose comparable restrictions on FGDs.
- S-extraction: um-verbs and iteratives.
- O-extraction: in-verbs and recent perfectives.

3. Materials and Methods
- Stops-Making-Sense task \(n = 80\), deployed using Linger [6].
- 2 (Filler Plausibility: Plausible, Implausible) \(\times\) 2 (Agreement: Present, Absent).
- Mean reading times (logit) - Implaus - Plaus.

4. Findings: Rejection rates
- At the verb-region, implausible sentences were rejected more than plausible sentences.
- Only in S-extraction did agreement have a mediating effect.

5. A puzzle from reading times
- In O-extraction, (unrejected) implausible sentences were read more slowly at the verb; but not in S-extraction.

References

How do Tagalog speakers use morphological cues-verbal agreement—to construct filler-gap dependencies in real-time?

maraming salamat!