I am pleased to introduce this collection of scholarly articles focused on various issues concerning language and cognition. This edition is special in light of the fact that it bears on one of most important questions regarding the interface problems explored with respect to underlying knowledge as well as real-time interpretations. In particular, the papers published here address the theme of how speakers and hearers of various languages such as Cayuga, English, Japanese, and Korean interpret and structure morphological forms and categories in the real-time and underlying mechanisms, including bound morphemes associated with sub-syllabic units, verb modals, gender features, and numerical classifiers, on one hand, and free morphemes such as nouns and verbs, on the other.

In their paper “The role of sub-syllabic units in the visual word recognition of Korean monosyllabic words: A masked priming study,” Kim & Bolger (2016) report on evidence for a left-branching model of sub-syllabic structure in visual word recognition in Korean using a masked priming paradigm. It was found in their study that Korean-speaking subjects preferred a left-branching body-coda sub-syllabic structure to a right branching onset-rime structure when processing monosyllabic words in written language. No preference was observed, on the other hand, for larger sub-syllabic units beyond the phoneme, this finding seemingly suggesting
the effect of the unequivocal nature of Korean. This study administered a masked priming lexical decision experiment with the aim to investigate whether there is a sub-syllabic preference for orthographic processing in Korean, given the condition involving $C_1VC_2$ structured monosyllabic target words preceded by one of four different types of primes at a short prime duration (50 ms): body ($C_1VC$), rime ($CVC_2$), identical ($C_1VC_2$), and non-match ($C_2VC_1$). It was discovered that both identical and body prime conditions elicited a significant priming effect, consistent with the left-branching model in Korean.

Two papers by Barrie (2016) and Song & Yun (2016) in this volume are addressed to the syntactic function of a nominal feature in Cayuga and a preverbal marker in ellipsis, both papers in favor of syntactic perspectives as opposed to a lexical stance. In his paper “Gender mismatches and ellipsis in Cayuga,” for example, Barrie (2016) discusses a kind of ellipsis in Cayuga (Northern Iroquoian) known as stripping. It is stated in this paper that, while person, number and gender feature mismatches are generally accepted in this construction, gender mismatches are not allowed with most predicate nouns referring to humans. Based on this fact, Barrie (2016) proposes that human noun roots in Cayuga carry an interpretable humanness feature [H], hence suggesting an obligatory nature valued for gender, and in turn providing an account for the lack of tolerance for gender mismatches on human predicate nouns.

In a similar vein, Song & Yun (2016) claim to have demonstrated a syntactic function of lexical information associated with verb modals in control structures. This study reports on Korean readers’ strategy of using the information of preverbal markers and control verbs in resolving the antecedent of pro in their paper “The Predictive Processing of Korean Control Sentences.” Song & Yun (2016) examines whether an antecedent for pro in Korean control sentence is predictively determined prior to the recognition of control verbs and which constituent is favored as an antecedent for pro. It was found that control verbs were read more slowly when control-neutral markers were used than when control-creating markers were used. It was also discovered that the words prior to control verbs took longer to read when the antecedent for pro corresponded to matrix subjects than matrix objects. In addition, this study also noted that
control verbs were rejected more when control-neutral markers were used and pro had to be co-indexed with matrix subjects than when control-creating markers were used and pro had to be co-indexed with matrix objects.

In contrast to Barrie (2016) and Song & Yun (2016), Joo & Kim (2016) is intended to focus more on the lexical structure of a morpheme than on the syntactic structure. Joo & Kim (2016), in their paper “A Processing-Based Account for the Preferred Ordering of the Korean Classifier Structures,” investigates whether native Korean speakers have a preference between the two numeral classifier structures, N+NUM+CL and NUM+CLgen+N. An experiment was conducted, and native Korean-speaking adults were expected to complete two acceptability judgment tasks in writing and speaking. It was found in this study that native Korean speakers prefer N+NUM+CL over NUM+CLgen+N, compatible with the prediction of the domain minimization account, in support of a lexical standpoint toward the analysis of the Korean classifier structures, unlike in Barrie or Song & Yun.

Skopeliti & Vosniadou (2016) and Yamamori (2016) provide us with an insight into how lexical forms such as nouns and verbs may affect scientific and narrative text reading by bringing to light their semantic functions. In their paper, “The role of categorical Information in refutation texts,” they claim to have discovered the effect of categorical information on elementary school children’s reading. Based on the results of the two experiments performed for the purpose of their study, the authors suggested that categorical information is more prominent than non-categorical conceptualization in the process of understanding the scientific concept associated with the earth, ultimately helping children to improve their reading skills.

Along the similar lines, in “The Effect of Present Activity Verbs on Processing Structural Ambiguity in Japanese Garden-path Sentences,” Yamamori (2016) focuses on the effect of semantic nature of the lexical forms involved in the study. This paper is interesting in light of the fact that the author claims to have found that the garden-path effect would be weakened if an activity verb were to include an activity verb in the present -ru form in the adnominal clause. For the purpose the study, this paper has conducted a structural analysis geared toward semantic contents of
the \(-ru\) form. It was found that the present \(-ru\) form serves as a function from propositions to sets of possible worlds, hence a proposition being interpreted as true in some presupposed possible world but not in all possible worlds accessible in a given context. Based on the main findings, this paper suggests that the \(-ru\) form extend the worlds against which a given proposition is evaluated, yielding a ‘diagonal proposition,’ the GP effect being reduced as a corollary.

Having reviewed these papers as a collection, I was reminded of the thesis of big box modules in the spirit of Seok (2006, p.359), Marcus (2004; 2005) and Jackendoff & Pinker (2005) with the adult competence composed of several subsystems of linguistic and perceptual patterns of knowledge to be developed as children grow, as seen, for example, in a recent study of Hebrew-speaking children’s argument ellipsis by Uziel-Karl and Berman (2000, p. 474), among many others. Uziel-Karl and Berman argue that both subject and object ellipsis in Hebrew are initially pragmatically licensed, and are later augmented by morpho-syntactic and semantic licensing.

In my own previous studies, it was also found that Korean reflexive anaphora in child and adult Korean is likely to be facilitated by mutual cooperation and a well-motivated systematic integration among topicality, perspective-taking, logophoricity, and verb semantics, among other things (e.g., Cho, 2005; Cho, 2015). These independent observations are in support of “the big box modules thesis” along the lines of the thesis, namely, that linguistic structure and knowledge manifests itself typically in interaction with every domain of language and cognition (e.g., visual perception, memory, etc.), including the mechanism of perceiving a morpho-phonological sub-units of a morpheme as well as the cognitive system for processing and understanding word meanings, sentence structures, and pragmatic contexts. Furthermore, there is growing evidence from the field of neuroscience that the development of the brain parallels the development of the rest of the body (Marcus, 2005, p. 935). This suggests that the development of children’s linguistic and metalinguistic sensitivity must interact with the nature of language and its functions in real time speaking and understanding.
Acknowledgements

This edition acknowledges the contribution of the authors of the papers in this collection and the editor-in-chief, Professor Chungmin Lee, and editorial assistant, Kwondeuk Choi, to the publication of this special publication.

References


