

Review of: "Trust is the best policy. Game theoretical analysis of bias in elicitation procedures in linguistics"

Leonardo Ranaldi¹

¹ Università Telematica Guglielmo Marconi

Potential competing interests: No potential competing interests to declare.

This paper discusses the problem of bias in elicitation procedures in linguistics, which refers to the potential influence of consultants' expert knowledge or preconceived ideas on the study's results. The author argues that the standard solution of using "naive" consultants who lack linguistic expertise may not be necessary. That bias is smaller of a problem than previously thought, even if the consultants are linguists.

The author proposes that game theory and decision theory can be used to analyze the impact of bias on data collection in linguistics. The analysis suggests that accepting all intuitive judgments from consultants, even if they display some bias, is the most effective strategy for obtaining reliable data. Of course, this approach does not eliminate the possibility of bias, but it is a reasonable and effective method for reducing its impact.

Overall, the paper presents an interesting argument that challenges a commonly accepted practice in linguistics. Using game theory and decision theory to analyze the impact of bias on data collection is a novel approach that could lead to important insights in the field. The abstract is well-written and presents the author's main points and conclusions.

Strengths:

The paper is well-written and very interesting, as it brings new ideas into the field of research. However, although it is exciting, I strongly believe some apparent examples are needed: perhaps pictures or diagrams.

Weak points:

I thought of putting the pictures and tables in the strengths because I think they are not big problems. For the weak points, I recommend this paper (<https://www.mdpi.com/2076-3417/13/2/677>).