

Perspective management

The politician gave an "enlightened response" during the debate.

Speaker oriented (default)

- Speakers are typically committed to content of their utterances^[1]

Non-speaker oriented (shifted)

- Perspective shift** allows speakers to utter content they need not be fully committed to^[1,2]
- Cued by various syntactic, semantic, pragmatic, intonational and even paralinguistic strategies

Perspective shifting strategies

1. Partial quotation (PQ):

e.g. *Lily grilled a "beefalo burger" at the cookout.*

- Analyzed as a perspective shifting phenomenon^[3]
- Quoted material attributable to another salient source
- Previous work on PQ focuses on semantics, pointing to orthographic representation (quotation marks) rather than phonological realization
- Need experimental work on how PQ induces perspective shift
- Intonation of PQ has not been fully described for English

2. Transparent free relatives (TFRs):

- TFRs syntactically embed an expression in a Free Relative^[4,5]

Lily grilled [_{TFR} what (she calls/is called) a beefalo burger] at the cookout.

Source (optional) Embedding verb (selects for equative or small clause) Pivot

Different uses of TFRs^[6]

- Subject Source TFR** → strong speaker non-commitment
- No Source TFR** → strong speaker commitment

Hypotheses

Research questions:

- Perspective shift:** Which cues (most) reliably signal perspective shift?
- Prosody:** How is partial quotation encoded prosodically? (exploratory)

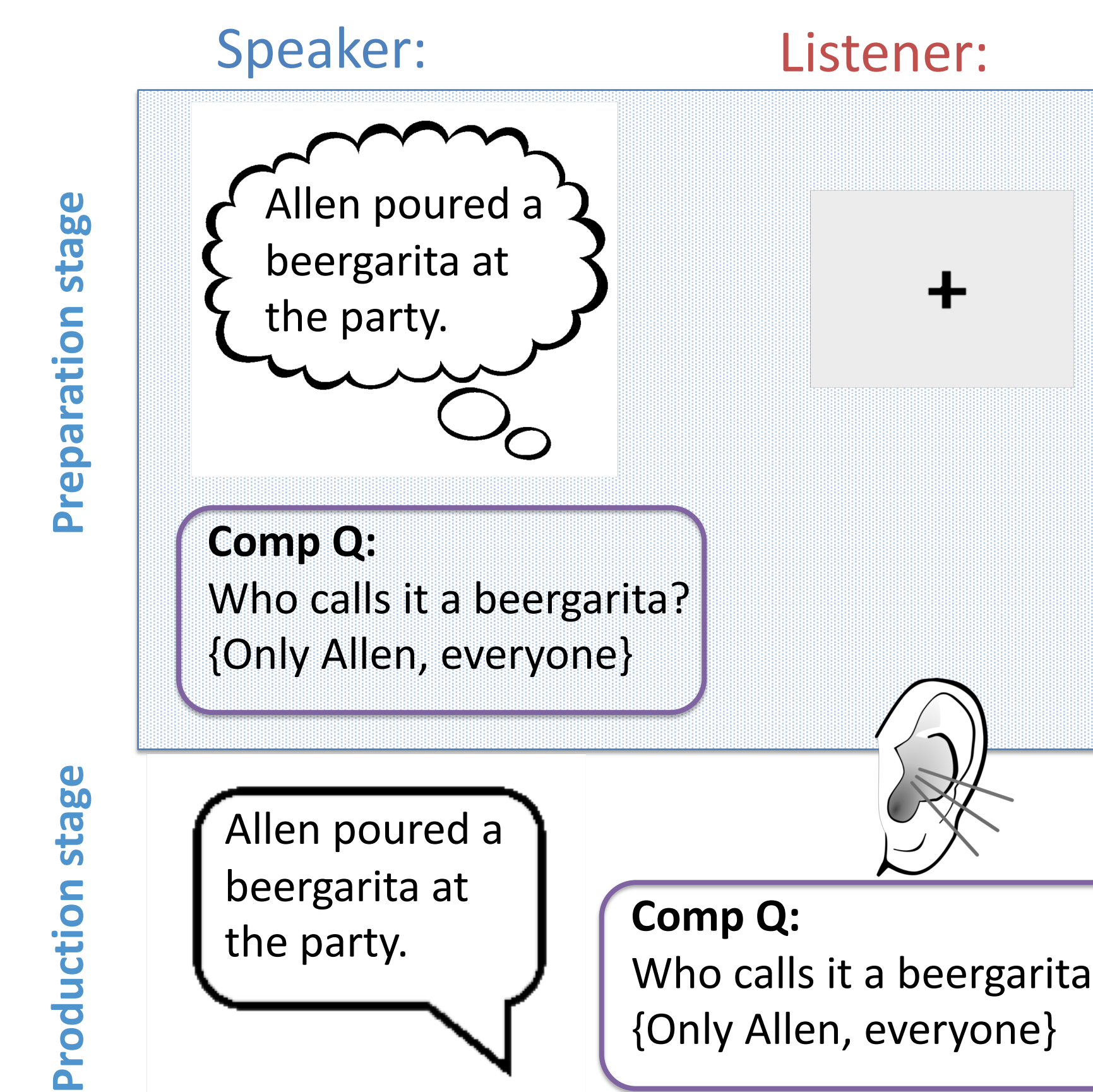
Two perspective shift hypotheses:

- H1: Equal cues** - All cues treated equally in perspective management
 - Prediction:** PQ and subject source TFRs produce same rate of perspective shift
- H2: Perspectival anchoring** – A cue’s propensity to induce perspective shift depends on how readily it can link the material to a perspectival anchor. The most effective cue to perspective shift is an attitude holder source to which the perspective can be attributed.^[1]
 - Prediction:** Subject source TFRs induce perspective shift more reliably than PQ

Materials and design

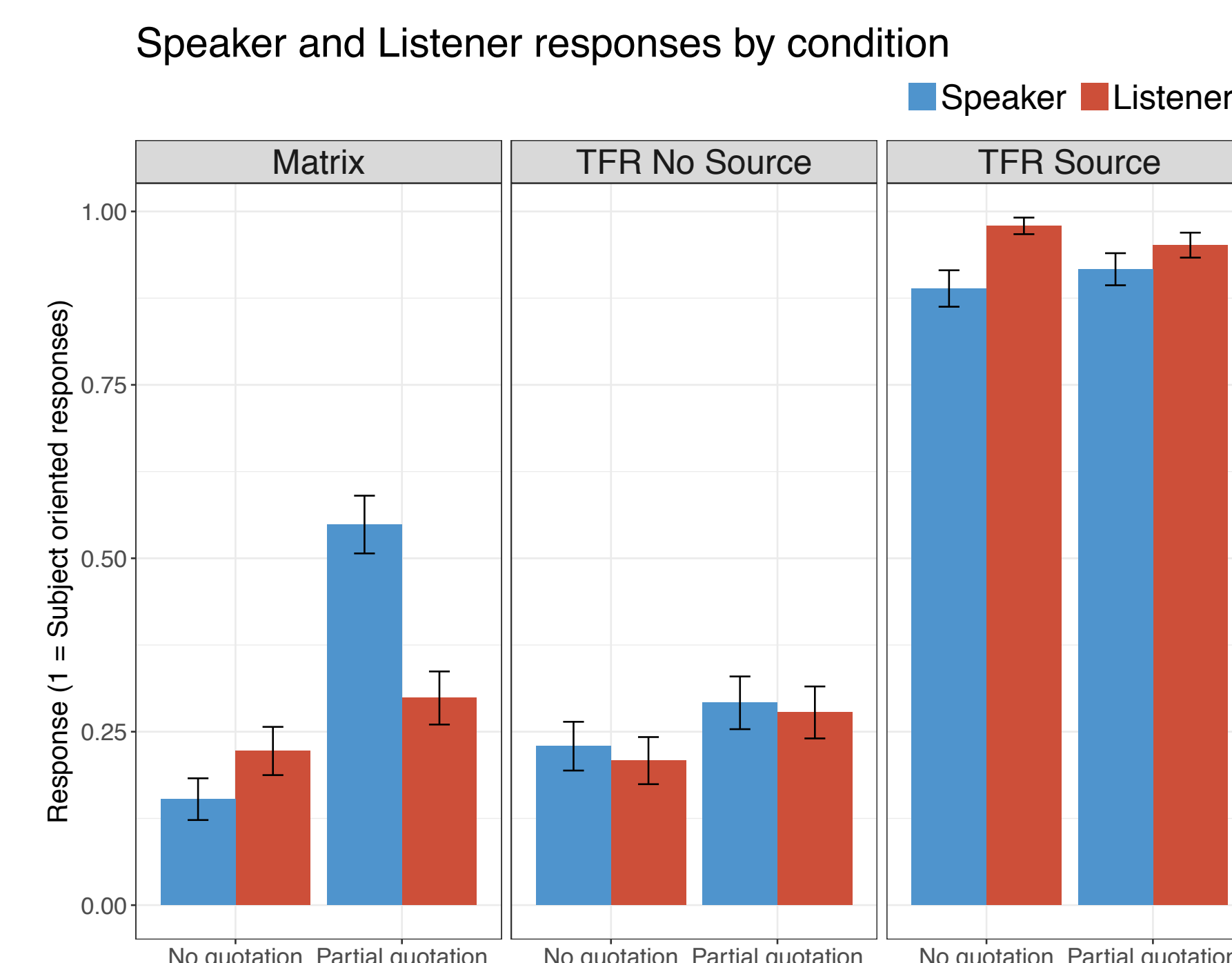
| | Matrix object | No Source TFR | Subject Source TFR |
|-----------------------|---|---|--|
| No quotes | Allen poured a beergarita at the party. | Allen poured <u>what is called a beergarita</u> at the party. | Allen poured <u>what he calls a beergarita</u> at the party. |
| Partial quotes | Allen poured a "beergarita" at the party. | Allen poured <u>what is called a "beergarita"</u> at the party. | Allen poured <u>what he calls a "beergarita"</u> at the party. |

- Instructed to imagine they were partners on a game show, scoring when they interpreted items the same way
- Speaker and Listener separated by divider
- Participants: UCLA undergrads (N=36 native English speaking pairs)
- 24 target items, 40 fillers, 8 catch items



Perspective shift in paired production-perception task

- Paradigm effective for eliciting emotionally engaged speech
- GLMER models of (1) **Speaker** interpretation, (2) **Listener** interpretation, and (3) Speaker/Listener **agreement** rate



1. Speaker:

- Both PQ and Subj Source TFR increased likelihood of shifted interpretation
- No Source TFR decreased likelihood of shifted interpretation
- The interactions between PQ and SS-TFR ($p = .054$) and PQ and NS-TFR decreased likelihood of shifted interpretation

2. Listener:

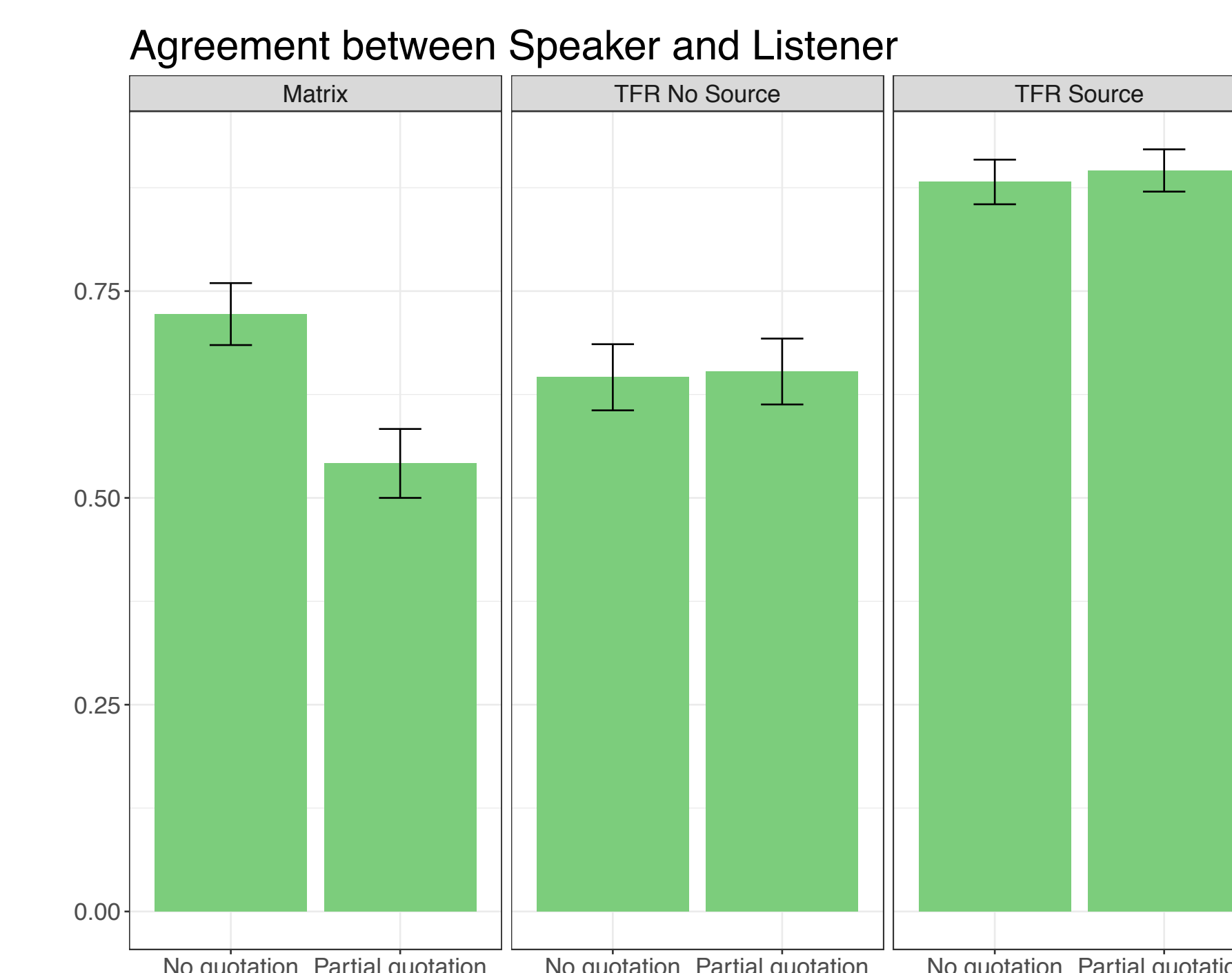
- Only SS-TFR increased likelihood of shifted interpretation; PQ n.s.
- As expected, NS-TFR decreased likelihood of shifted interpretation
- The interactions between PQ and SS-TFR marginally suggests a decrease ($p = .066$)

3. Agreement:

- Embedding under SS-TFR increased Agreement
- Embedding under NS-TFR decreased Agreement
- PQ and interactions n.s.
- Orthography better cue than prosody?
- Speaker more reticent to shift personal perspective?

Summary of main findings

- No source TFRs interpreted as not shifted
- Subject source TFRs reliably induce perspective shift
- Matrix PQ induced perspective shift for Speaker, though not as reliably



Prosody of Partial Quotation

Significant interspeaker variation, but speakers reliably mark PQ location with distinct prosodic cues:

- Notable pause at left edge of PQ, IP-final lengthening on the word preceding PQ (*an*) and plateau boundary tone (H-L%)
- Right edge of PQ has an optional pause and most often an L-H% or L-L% boundary tone

Discussion

Results support **Perspectival anchoring hypothesis**. Subject Source TFRs are more robust cue to perspective shift than PQ.

Lack of significance of PQ in both the Listener response model and the Agreement model suggests that either:

- Speakers did **not consistently employ prosodic cues** for PQ
- Listeners were **not able to reconstruct PQ** in their representation of the utterance despite it being marked prosodically

Further prosodic analysis should differentiate these alternatives; may be speaker variation in consistency of marking PQ

Perspective shift is a risky strategy.^[1,7] Speakers chose shifted interpretation less in PQ matrix case than in SS-TFR, perhaps because there aren't (strong) enough cues available.

Future Directions

- Investigate how Perspective-shifting constructions are used in corpora of natural speech
- How does "quote unquote" affect Perspective Shift and interact with the prosody of Partial Quotation?
- At what stage in production do speakers commit to a perspective shifted interpretation?

References

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