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Research on how a speaker chooses a particular linguistic form at a given moment has drawn a lot of attention among linguists and psychologists (e.g. Levelt, 1979; Levelt and van Dijk, 1978; Clark and Sengul, 1979; Tyler and Leech, 1982; Givón, 1983; Chafe, 1987). It seems indisputable that the speaker's decision is not random, but it is not yet clear what the governing principles are. This paper attempts to account for the selection of referential expressions in Korean narratives in cognitive terms; i.e., in terms of the memorial status of referents. The relationship between the selection of linguistic form and the activation of referent is explored using experimental manipulation.

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