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Tonal bilingualism: the case of two related Chinese dialects

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Stellingen

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Tonal Bilingualism: the Case of Two Closely Related Chinese Dialects

van

Junru Wu

1. Interlingual category-goodness between different tonal systems keeps its impact on lexical access (This dissertation: Chapter 2).
2. The sociolinguistic and cognitive backgrounds of the bilinguals affect the strength of systematic correspondence shown in their speech production (This dissertation: Chapter 3).
3. When etymologically related translation equivalents are perceived by bilinguals, tonal similarity affects lexical access in a non-linear way, with the pattern changing as the similarity passes the threshold (This dissertation: Chapter 4).
4. Tonal patterns have a representational status in lexical access but also converge in a lexically specific way (This dissertation: Chapter 5).
5. A bilingual of two closely related tonal dialects, when NOT using a tonal lexical variant in one dialect (while some other bilinguals do), still stores this variant as a lexical variant in that dialect and is influenced by its variant probability (This dissertation: Chapter 6).
6. Speakers of two closely-related Chinese dialects, compared with speakers of a single Chinese dialect, have lexical disadvantages in word production but lexical advantages in auditory word comprehension (This dissertation: Chapters 3 & 7).
7. Speakers of two closely-related Chinese dialects, compared with speakers of a single Chinese dialect, have advantages in lexical-related executive control (This dissertation: Chapter 7).
8. Lexical tones, as suprasegmental phonemes, are very similar to segmental phonemes in the way they influence lexical access.
9. The way bilinguals handle words in speech production and speech perception differs depending on the specific pair of languages they command.
10. There is discreteness in the different levels of speech comprehension, namely between lexical activation and semantic activation.
11. Bilingual advantages and disadvantages need to be discussed in the context of the specific circumstances.