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From oscillations to language: behavioural and electroencephalographic studies on cross-language interactions

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STELLINGEN

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From oscillations to language: Behavioural and electroencephalographic studies on cross-language interactions

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aan de Universiteit Leiden door

Sarah Von Grebmer Zu Wolfsthurn

1. Successful non-native comprehension and production are particularly remarkable because speakers have to continuously overcome the challenge of their languages interacting with each other just to have a simple conversation with another speaker.
2. Current (psycho)linguistic research has not *yet* produced an over-arching, all-encompassing measure for the subjective and objective similarity between two or more languages.
3. The interplay between behavioural and neural patterns in the multilingual brain is complex: the common view that neural measures are indices for ongoing processes and behavioural measures are indices for the outcome of those processes may not always apply.
4. Adult late language learners with intermediate proficiency levels show a strong sensitivity to grammatical violations. This is traceable both at the behavioural and the neural level.
5. By focusing on specific linguistic features in non-native production such as gender processing or cognate processing, we can obtain insight into the interacting languages and subsequently the selection of the target language.
6. The findings reported in this thesis demonstrate that multilingual speakers are not simply the sum of two or more monolinguals, as previously stated by Grosjean (1989).
7. Close collaboration with linguists, statisticians, neuroscientists and psychologists to design the most optimal experiment is one efficient way to mitigate the effects of the replication crisis in the respective fields.
8. Reducing manual labour in data handling and data wrangling significantly decreases the chances of accidentally distorting one's data, which has detrimental consequences for the interpretation of the results.
9. A good cup of tea in a colleague's office can clear the foggy mind and unveil answers to tricky problems.
10. During any research project you discover new things about the research topic, but also just as many about yourself.