The role of lexico-syntactic features in noun phrase production and comprehension: insights from Spanish and Chinese in unilingual and bilingual contexts

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Stellingen

Behorende bij het proefschrift

The Role of Lexico-Syntactic Features in Noun Phrase Production and Comprehension: Insights from Spanish and Chinese in Unilingual and Bilingual Contexts

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aan de Universiteit Leiden door

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1. The retrieval of lexico-syntactic features in language production, including Spanish grammatical gender and Mandarin classifiers, is governed by competitive selection mechanisms, observable at either behavioral or both behavioral and neural levels.
2. Bilinguals do not randomly mix their languages together; instead, they follow rule-governed patterns.
3. Bilingual language processing is inherently flexible, evidenced by gender and classifier assignment in mixed noun phrases reflecting the interaction of multiple strategies rather than a single default mechanism.
4. Linguistic factors, task type, and community characteristics should be considered as factors that shape the patterns of bilingual language behavior, as traceable in Spanish–Chinese bilinguals in Barcelona.
5. Spanish-Chinese bilingual speakers show a comparable process of producing Chinese classifiers as monolingual Mandarin Chinese speakers. This is evident at both behavioral and neural levels.
6. Variability in gender assignment and classifier assignment strategies is not only common but also serves as a unifying characteristic within the bilingual community, emphasizing collective adaptability in language use.
7. Parallel patterns across gender, classifiers, and adjective placement reflect that Spanish–Chinese bilinguals may rely on shared underlying cognitive mechanisms when processing functionally comparable lexico-syntactic features across their languages.
8. Adjective-noun code-switched patterns cannot be fully explained by a single grammatical constraint; instead, they reflect the interaction between matrix language structure and lexical-level item features.
9. Spanish–Chinese bilinguals provide valuable insights into bilingual language processing and merit greater research focus.
10. Effort guarantees rewards, whether you are doing research or pumping iron, so lift your ideas as you lift your weights.