
Metaphor processing in late second-language learners

Fabrizio Luciani^{*†}, Francesco Ferretti^{‡1}, and Greta Mazzaggio^{§2}

¹Department of Philosophy, Communication and Performing Arts, Roma Tre University – Italy

²Department of Humanities, University of Florence – Italy

Abstract

The study aims to investigate how second language (L2) learners process novel metaphors. The appropriate use of metaphors is a complex task and considered one of the greatest challenges for L2 learners but the study of figurative language in bilingualism remains an under-researched area. The study focuses on bilinguals' metaphor processing due to their greater cognitive effort, especially for less proficient or late bilinguals. To our knowledge, no prior research has examined how two types of metaphor comprehension – physical and mental – is influenced by varying levels of L2 proficiency. A role of neuropsychological measures will also be considered.

Keywords: Metaphor processing, Pragmatics, Second language learners

*Speaker

†Corresponding author: fab.luciani4@stud.uniroma3.it

‡Corresponding author: francesco.ferretti@uniroma3.it

§Corresponding author: greta.mazzaggio@unifi.it