



The role of animacy violation in bilingual figurative language processing: Research proposal

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Metaphorical utterances have been broadly investigated by researchers using neurolinguistic methods. Research shows that metaphors elicit larger N400 amplitudes than literal sentences (Pynte et al. 1996; Jankowiak et al. 2017; Rataj et al. 2018; Lai et al. 2009; Coulson and Van Petten 2002) and that novel metaphors seem to demand increased cognitive effort compared to conventional metaphors (Lai et al. 2009; Jankowiak et al. 2017). Figurative language frequently involves animacy violation e.g. *healthy attitude*. Although there are not many studies on the topic of animacy violation using the ERP (event-related potential) technique, the existing research has shown robust P600 amplitudes for sentences containing animacy violation (Kuperberg et al. 2003; Szewczyk and Schriefers 2011). The comprehension of novel metaphors has been broadly examined, and many ERP studies report consistent result. However, the role of animacy violation combined with the role of bilingualism in metaphor and idiom comprehension using the ERP technique has not been investigated so far.

Two ERP studies are planned in the current project focused on the role of animacy violation. One devoted to metaphor and the other to idiom comprehension. All selected and generated stimuli will undergo a norming study with the use of questionnaires with rating scales on their familiarity, meaningfulness, metaphoricity by native speakers of Polish and English, and English L2 speakers. Additionally, a cloze probability test will be conducted.

The results are expected to provide new insight into figurative language comprehension concentrating on the role of animacy violation and bilingual figurative language processing.

References

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