

Acquisition of foreign language vocabulary through watching subtitled foreign language films

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Subtitled foreign language films provide a rich multimodal environment in which foreign language vocabulary could be acquired. In this talk I will focus on the processing of native and foreign language subtitles and the incidental acquisition of foreign language vocabulary in multimodal situations. I will present a series of experiments that used behavioural and eye-tracking techniques to investigate the incidental acquisition of foreign language vocabulary using multimodal stimuli. The paradigm of most of these experiments involved a combination of incidental exposure and explicit learning situations. I will discuss the impact of exposure to different foreign languages (e.g., Welsh, Chinese and Korean) on monolingual English speakers, and the specific role of written, verbal and pictorial information in the incidental acquisition of foreign language vocabulary.