The cognitive consequences of multilingualism in the processing of markedness and ungrammaticality in L1

In this presentation we would like to investigate speakers' acceptability of marked and/or ungrammatical constructions in their native language with respect to their mono- or multilingual status (cf., Kemp, 2007; Dewaele & Wei, 2013). In our research we focused on the position of adverbs of frequency and the distribution of (reflexive) possessives in Polish, the participants' native language. Crucially, in both cases fully grammatical syntactic constructions were tested alongside marked (for adverbs of frequency) and ungrammatical (for possessives) constructions (1-2):

1a	Janek	rzadko	czyta	e-booki.	=unmarked, grammatical
	Janek	seldom	reads	e-books	
1b	Janek	czyta	rzadko	e-booki.	=**marked, grammatical**
	Janek	reads	seldom	e-books	
2a	Jan_1	znalazł	$swoje_1$	klucze.	=unmarked, grammatical
	Jan	found	self	keys	
2b	*Jan_1	znalazł	$jego_1$	klucze.	=**ungrammatical**
	Jan	found	his	keys	

A default, fully grammatical word order (a pre-verbal adverb) is shown in (1a), whereas (1b) shows a marked (but also grammatical) word order with a post-verbal adverb. As for possessives, Polish has reflexive possessives, which are used in the subject-oriented reading (2a), whereas possessive pronominals, as in (2b), are characterized by anti-subject orientation, which (prescriptively) prevents them from coreference with the subject.

The aim of the present study was to investigate the extent to which factors such as *multilingualism* (monolingual vs. multilingual) and *age* (young adult vs. middle-aged) influence the acceptance of marked vs. ungrammatical sentences. We compared the performance of young multilinguals (N = 24, mean age = 20) with that of middle-aged functionally monolingual Polish speakers (N = 28, mean age = 65). In order to test participants' linguistic intuitions, we performed an acceptability judgement task (cf. Keating & Jegerski, 2015) comprising 10 experiment items per construction type to be judged on a 5-point Likert scale. We expected a significant difference between these two groups in the acceptability of grammatical but marked sentences (1b), as opposed to ungrammatical sentences (2b).

For data analysis, we used the R software (R Core Team, 2022) to run a mixed-effects ordinal logistic regression model, including *group* and *condition*. The model showed statistically significant results of *group* for possessive pronouns (β = 2.59, SE = 0.59, p < 0.001). However, this was not the case for adverb placement (β = 0.71, SE = 0.81, p = 0.38). Such results might have been related to an increase in tolerance for ungrammatical L1 constructions by multilingual speakers, ongoing language change, or a combination thereof.

However, as the two tested groups differed by both the number of known languages and age, we are currently testing two further groups: young monolinguals and middle-aged multilinguals, in order to single out the strongest predictor of greater acceptability of ungrammatical sentences. We hope that our study will contribute to the growing body of literature regarding cognitive changes in the perception of L1 under the influence of Ln(s).

[Word count: 461]

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