



A processing model of bilingual (switched) compound verbs

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Abstract

The present talk investigates the availability of grammatical-category information during bilingual language processing. The specific aim was to examine the processing of bilingual compound verbs (BCVs). BCV is formed when an item from the other language of bilinguals replaces the nominal constituent of a compound verb. The current study used the picture-word interference paradigm. It will address how a lexical element corresponding to a verb node can be placed in a slot corresponding to a noun lemma. This study examined whether, in the case of the production of BCVs, English verbs compete with the corresponding Persian compound verbs as a whole or whether English verbs compete with the nominal constituents of Persian compound verbs only. It will also investigate how the production of BCVs might be captured within a model of BCVs and how such a model may be integrated with the incremental network models of speech production. Naming latencies were longer in the nominal than the compound verb linguistic unit. Participants were slower to produce the nominal constituent of compound verbs in the context of a semantically closely related English distractor verb compared to producing the whole compound verbs in the context of a semantically closely related English distractor verb. The results revealed that in the case of the production of the nominal constituent of BCVs, a verb from the other language of bilinguals competes with a noun from the base language, suggesting that grammatical category does not provide a constraint on lexical access during the production of the nominal constituent of BCVs.

Keywords: Code-switching, Bilingualism, Bilingual compound verb, Switched compound verb, Bilingual lexical selection

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