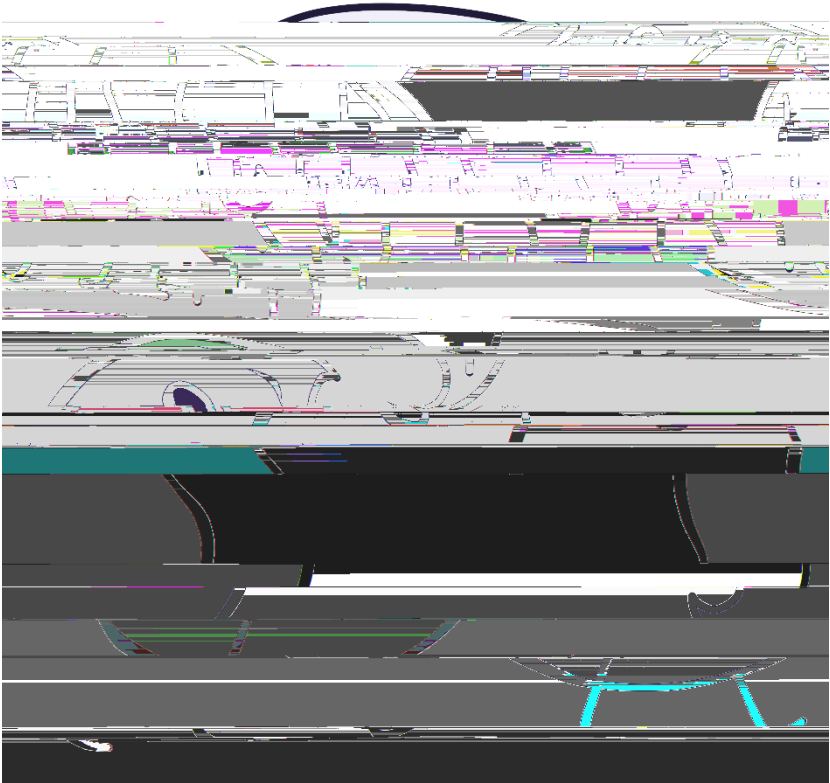


Western Interdisciplinary Student Symposium on Language Research



March 5th, 2021

1:00pm-8:30pm

Online, Zoom

Western University



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Overview of WISSLR 2021 Conference

Event Location & Time:

Zoom 1:00pm ó 8:30PM EST

Meet and Greet: 1:00PM ó 1:25PM

Session 1: 1:30PM ó 3:00PM

First Break: 3:00 PM ó 3:15 PM

Session 2: 3:15PM ó 4:45PM

Second Break: 4:45PM ó 5:30PM

Keynote Presentation: 5:30PM ó 6:30PM

Final Break: 6:30PM ó 6:45PM

Session 3: 6:45PM ó 8:15PM

Closing and Final Remarks: 8:15PM



WISSLR 2021 Schedule

Friday, March 5th, 2021

6:45PM-8:15PM

Session 3

6:45 PM

“Keeping Language Work Going” Indig



Abstracts

Keynote Presentation:

The Importance of Sound in Language Revitalization

Keren Rice, PhD | University of Toronto

Often when we talk about language revitalization, we talk about structure and meaning, of pragmatics and culture. Yet for

Session 1

Irish Consonant Mutations in English Loanwords

Diana Hamel | University of Toronto

One of the most unique features of the Irish language (as well as its sisters, including Scots Gaelic and Welsh) is the morpho-phonological system of initial consonant mutation. Irish has two principal mutations: lenition, which converts plosives to fricatives (while preserving voicing) and debuccalizes or deletes radical fricatives; and eclipsis, which replaces voiceless plosives with voiced plosives, voiced plosives with nasals, and fricatives with glides. These two mutation paradigms are robust in modern Irish and both apply to nouns, verbs, and adjectives to encode a variety of grammatical information: compare a cat -her cat \emptyset and a gcat -his cat, \emptyset which differ only in initial mutation, with the first having no mutation and the second undergoing eclipsis (/k/ → /g/).

This paper concerns the case of English words loaned into Irish and the degree to which speakers incorporate them into these mutation paradigms. Theoretically, we can understand that Irish speakers encountering English loans could incorporate them into their morpho-phonology in one of two ways: either by leaving the English words untouched or by treating them like Irish words and mutating them as necessary. Previous studies of conversational and elicited data, like Nancy Stenson's 1990 survey of Ráth Cairn Irish, established that different initial consonants are mutated at different rates in loans, but go no further in attempting to explain why the consonants differ in this regard. My reading of Stenson's data demonstrates that, although all segments accept eclipsis fairly readily, there are three levels of resistance to lenition: those segments which do not significantly resist



lenition because they violate a high-ranked faithfulness constraint (namely IDENT-PLACE) in the process of mutating into their lenited forms. I further posit that /f/ resists lenition even more thoroughly because the mutation violates an even more highly-ranked constraint which prohibits consonant deletion. I also address the unique sociolinguistic landscape of Irish in the modern day and consider some of the interesting questions at the intersection of language revitalization and this phonological phenomena: seeing as Stensonø data is nearly 30

finger. This strategy requires little effort and movement but as a result might be missed by the viewer. Also, signers seem to only use the tap when the fingers necessary to distinguish the handshape (the "main" fingers) touch, so double letters such as a double -C- (c), as in FS-SUCCULENT, are not signed with that strategy. A possible concern to the signer is that if a double -C- were signed with a tap, the viewer might confuse the tap with a signed -O- (o), as its handshape requires the thumb and the index to be touching. Instead, signers do a "saccade" which is a very short back and forth movement with the forearm. This requires more effort than the tap, as it involves the forearm, but is still less effortful than the slide.

In the data, the ASL signers used the slide strategy for short words with four letters or less (as in FS-FOOT). Presumably, since those require less effort overall than longer words, signers can afford to spend more effort on the most perceptually salient strategy. In contrast, longer words tend to be signed with the tap or saccade strategy, depending on whether the main fingers touch when doing the double letter handshape. It is possible that signers rely on the numerous surrounding letters to provide enough context for the viewer to understand which word is being fingerspelled in case the slight movement of the double letter is missed, and thus are more comfortable using a less effortful strategy. Interestingly,



Some examples of developed constructed languages are High Valyrian from the popular series *Game of Thrones* and Klingon from *Star Trek*. This paper focuses on another constructed language, Quenya, invented by renowned English author J.R.R. Tolkien for the elves of his *Legendarium*.

Quenya is a language that has received very little study relatively



14 speakers were chosen for the study (five from Hindi L1 and nine from Bangla L1). The study was elicitation-based tests where the children were shown pictures and videos of inanimates and animate daily and were then asked to describe the changes in the pictures or the scene. The speakers were coded for their L1, age, and siblings, for example, B;5s (Bangla speaker aged five s- sibling of B;10s). The findings show that both Hindi and Bengali speakers seem to follow



Antoniou et al., 2015), and syntactic (e.g., Klein, 1995) domains. However, the present study is motivated by a notable lack in previous research that examines the effect of multilingualism on acquiring a specific grammatical structure, particularly in the domain of morphosyntax. This study therefore aims to examine how knowledge of an additional language beyond L1 English and L2/L3 Spanish may affect accuracy scores with grammatical gender as a problematic feature for the late acquisition of morphosyntax (e.g., Fernández-García, 1999; McCarthy, 2008; Montrul et al., 2008). Participants consisted of two groups of adult learners ($N = 24$) in the instructed context: 1. those with bilingual experience ($n = 10$) in L1 English and L2 Spanish; and 2. those with multilingual experience ($n = 14$) in L1 English, L2 other language (e.g. French, Arabic, Mandarin, German), and L3 Spanish. The effect of language processing modality was investigated via two task types: 1. a self-paced (planning time) written task to examine performance during the off-line modality; and 2. a speeded (no planning time) oral picture description task to examine the on-line modality. These varied task demands were designed to investigate to what extent processing modality may modulate the effect of multilingual experience on grammatical performance. The effect of three linguistic variables inherent to grammatical gender is also investigated by comparing scores across both categories on the following binary variables: gender class (masculine or feminine), domain of agreement (determiner, adjective), and noun morphology (overt or non-overt gender marking). Results demonstrate a positive and significant effect ($F(22) = 4.723$, $p = .041$) of multilingual experience thus suggesting that even novice-level multilingual exposure beyond the native language and the current target language affords significant advantage in performance with a problematic feature for adult learning of morphosyntax. Moreover, this advantage produces a significant effect only during online/speeded processing ($F(22) = 9.344$, $p = .006$). The observed multilingual advantage cannot be directly related to other language typology since multilingual participants both with ($n = 7$) and without ($n = 7$) binary grammatical gender instantiated in their additional language were not significantly different in their performance (M difference = 4.4%, $SD = 8.2$; $F(12) = 0.816$, $p = .385$). Furthermore, no significant difference was detected in Spanish proficiency ($F(22) = 1.640$, $p = .222$) nor metacognitive awareness scores ($F(22) = 0.634$, $p = .436$) between

bilingual and multilingual participants. Therefore, we argue that the multilingual advantage observed here may be attributable to differentiated processing cues and language representation such that learners with multilingual exposure demonstrate enhanced use of



- (1)
 - a. After that, he was like ðitϕ hot outside.ö
 - b. After that, he said ðitϕ hot outside.ö
 - c. After that, he went ðitϕ hot outside.ö

Intensifiers are adverbs used to increase or decrease the intensity of a modified word, and most often, and adjective. This is shown in example two, below, where really, very, super, and kind of are the intensifiers that modify tall.

- (2)
 - a. That tree is really tall.
 - b. That tree is very tall.
 - c. That tree is super tall.
 - d. That tree is kind of tall.

In this paper, I analyze linguistic data gathered from personal interviews that use guided narration to see if individuals of different genders use different frequencies of intensifiers or quotatives, or if they use more or fewer of specific variants. The personal interviews consisted of a background questionnaire, a picture narration task, a spontaneous dubbing task, and an open-ended narration. Each participant was able to describe their own identity in terms of gender, gender expression, sexuality, and other factors. The interview methodology is based on Koven (2011) and Lara Bermejo (2016), and the analysis in Buchstaller (2006), Hessner and Gawlitzek (2017), and Tagliamonte and Roberts (2005). The interviews were then transcribed, coded, and analyzed in terms of frequency of usage of quotatives and intensifiers in general, as well as looking into specific variants of the intensifiers and quotatives used. The results indicate large amounts of individual variation, with participants using between one and 59 intensifiers each, and between one and 101 quotatives each. However, the highest-frequency users of both quotatives and intensifiers were women, while lower-frequency users being men, whereas non-binary speakers have a wide spread of usage but overall use more intensifiers and quotatives than men but fewer than women. This paper shows that gender-inclusive sociolinguistic studies are possible and important. Future research can follow this ideology and could validate these findings with larger sample sizes and different variables of interest.

Confronting Linguistic Necropolitics: Translanguaging in Hip Hop Space

Adesoji Babalola | Queen's University

The concept of necropolitics has been popularized by Achille Mbembe (2003, 2019) to designate the social and political power to decree how people may live and how some must die. In furthering this theorization, Mbembe (2003) argues that sovereignty means the capacity to define who matters and who does not, who is disposable and who is not (27). If applied to language ideologies imposed on the





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