

Project 0002. Receptive multilingualism across the lifespan

Project description

Citation

Vanhove, Jan (2011 - 2014): *Receptive multilingualism across the lifespan*.
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Project coordination

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Year

2011 - 2014

Description

This thesis investigated the lifespan development of a key skill in foreign language learning and receptive multilingualism: the ability to make sense of isolated written and spoken words in an unknown language but with cognates in known languages. Of specific interest was the question of how such age-related developments in this skill could be attributed to cognitive and linguistic factors. The data from a Swedish cognate guessing task administered to a cross-sectional sample of multilingual Swiss-German participants aged 10 to 86 years were analysed from three vantage points: first with respect to the inter-individual differences in cognate guessing performance, second with respect to between-item differences in overall cognate guessing accuracy and lastly focussing on the interplay between participant- and item-related characteristics.

Language(s)

English

Keywords

Cognition;
Evaluation of foreign-language competencies;
German-speaking Switzerland;
Germanic languages;
Interlinguistics;
Scandinavian languages

Category

German-speaking Switzerland;
German;
Multilingual competence

Geographic coverage

Switzerland

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10.6084/m9.figshare.795286

Methodology

Universe

Multilingual native speakers of a Swiss German dialect with no self-reported knowledge of Swedish or any of the related North Germanic languages (Danish, Faroese, Icelandic, Norwegian), aged 10-86 years

Selection method

Cross-sectional sample of 167 individuals

Approach

Quantitative

Mode of data collection

Task-based collection (electronic and on paper)

Collection period

01/01/2011 - 31/12/2012

Data collected by

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