

Abstracts

EASP Meeting: Language Challenges in the 21st Century

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Abstracts – Keynotes

Thursday Keynote



**The Interactive Communication and Acculturation Model (ICAM):
Language policies and acculturation orientations of linguistic
majorities and minorities.**

Richard Y. Bourhis

Université du Québec à Montréal, Canada

The Interactive Communication and Acculturation model (ICAM) offers an intergroup approach to relations between dominant language majorities and linguistic minorities within multilingual settings. Government language policies dealing with linguistic diversity are situated on an ideological continuum ranging from the pluralist, civic, assimilationist to exclusionist approaches. Acculturation is the process of bidirectional change that takes place when two language communities come in sustained contact with each other. Language majority speakers may endorse five acculturation orientations towards linguistic minorities: individualism, integrationism, assimilationism, segregationism and exclusionism. Linguistic minorities may endorse individualism, integrationism, assimilationism, separatism and marginalisation. Combinations of these orientations have an impact on harmonious, problematic or conflictual language group relations, the acquisition of additive vs subtractive bilingualism, language switching strategies in bilingual encounters and inter-generational language maintenance or loss. The cultural autonomy model helps account for how institutional vitality, social proximity and ideological clarification/legitimacy combine through collective identity, to foster group mobilisation towards the maintenance/development of language minorities.

Friday Keynote



Hate speech epidemics: Desensitization and normalization of derogatory language?

Michał Bilewicz

University of Warsaw, Poland

Exposure to violent language about minorities and immigrant groups increases prejudice and leads to discriminatory behavior. As an effect, people exposed to hate speech use it more often. This suggests that hate speech can spread in an epidemic way. I propose that the mechanism through which hate speech spreads in the society is desensitization - the same process that makes other forms of aggression spread in a population. Two large scale correlational studies, an experimental study and a psycho-physiological study provide evidence for the desensitization processes that occur in the proliferation of hate speech in contemporary social media and political discourse. At the same time, we try to study emotional mechanisms of hate speech. Based on the theory of intergroup emotions, I propose that derogatory language elicits and is caused by contempt rather than hate itself, therefore we should speak about "contempt speech" rather than "hate speech".

Saturday Keynote



The development of language as a social category

Katherine Kinzler

Cornell University, USA

Beyond the literal content conveyed by language, the way someone speaks provides social meaning. In this talk I provide evidence that the tendency to see language as uniting, dividing, and marking human social groups begins remarkably early in life. Children's attention to a speaker's language and accent influences their social preferences, essentialist reasoning, and learning from others. In several cases, children's attention to language trumps attention to race. Yet, while linguistic diversity may cause social divisions, it can also facilitate social understanding: children exposed to diverse linguistic environments exhibit effective social communication skills in understanding the perspective of others.

Abstracts – Symposia

Exploring Intra-Language Varieties - New Methods, Questions, and Challenges

Talk F1.1: Implicit and explicit listener associations to social accents in Glasgow

Duncan Robertson

University of York

Building on previous research which investigated both implicit and explicit associations towards different regional or international varieties of English (Pantos 2012; Campbell-Kibler 2012; 2013; Mackenzie & Carrie 2018), this presentation discusses an examination of the associations which listeners make towards different social accents in Glasgow, carried out via a series of Visual World eye tracking experiments. The results show listeners to have verbally reported markedly different associations than those indicated by their fixation behaviours. Furthermore, listeners were found to have performed different fixation behaviours while hearing words containing phonetic realisations commonly found in working-class Glaswegian speech (e.g. [mɪwk] for milk) than when hearing words containing realisations more typical of middle-class Glaswegian speech (e.g. [mɪlk]). Overall, the results indicate that speech varieties with varying levels of perceived social status elicit differing implicit and explicit social evaluations in listeners, and that socially-marked phonetic variation plays a role in this.

Talk F1.2: Implicit language attitudes of the majority group towards their own (L2) accent in a national lingua franca

Pedro Álvarez Mosquera

University of Salamanca, Spain

In South Africa, where the vast majority of the largest ethnic group are L1 speakers of African indigenous languages, English continues to play a predominant role. This presentation will explore the implicit language attitudes of a sample of 80 young L1 South African indigenous language speakers towards Standard South African English and black-accented English in a university context. To this aim, a mix-methodological approach will be used to investigate the interrelation between participants' Implicit Association Test (IAT) results towards the two selected accents and their linguistic background, language exposure, and social distance levels. Results underline the notion of intersectionality (race and gender) and the relevant role of the language of instruction in the development of language attitudes. Further correlations between the above-mentioned sociolinguistic variables provide valuable insight with significant social implications as well as methodological considerations.

Talk F1.3: Immigrants as dialect speakers - admired or despised?

Karolina Hansen

University of Warsaw

Virtually any spoken language is differentiated regionally. Today, societies are also diverse in terms of ethnic appearances. However, the combined influence of (foreign) appearance and regional accent has not been investigated. Three experiments ($N = 148$, $N = 116$, $N = 107$) on simulated hiring decisions in Germany investigated whether evaluations of standard and regional-accented speakers depend on their native or foreign appearance. Among standard-accented job candidates, foreign-looking ones were perceived as more competent and hireable than native-looking ones, reflecting a positive violation of expectations. Regional speakers were evaluated by a majority as less competent and hireable than standard speakers, regardless of their appearance. However, there are hints that a minority of participants valued the foreign-looking dialect speakers. Participants speaking the same regional accent also tended to discriminate against regional-accented job candidates. In conclusion, combining different cues and studying people with non-traditional identities gives a fuller picture of person perception processes.

Talk F1.4: Beliefs about experiences of sounding gay or lesbian

Fabio Fasoli¹, Peter Hegarty¹, & David Frost²

¹University of Surrey

²University College London

When listeners guess a person's sexuality from vocal cues, they enact auditory gaydar. Research has examined auditory gaydar's accuracy but have yet to fully explore its relationship to sexual prejudice. First, we measured ($N=363$) straight participants' sexual prejudice, and the extent of participants' beliefs that auditory gaydar cues are immutable, intentional and discrete. Auditory gaydar was believed to be a better cue to men's sexuality, and discreteness beliefs were positively correlated with prejudice. Next, we asked ($N=147$) gay men and lesbian women if they had experiences as targets of others' auditory gaydar. 41% of gay men and 6% of the lesbian women reported such experiences, and most described them as instances of discrimination. Belief in auditory gaydar is associated with prejudicial attitudes among heterosexuals, and enacting gaydar is experienced as harmful by its targets. Auditory gaydar is not merely a value-neutral social judgment, but also an expression of sexual prejudice.

Talk F2.1: Listening to your neighbor? Your enemy? Language studies with Jews and Palestinians in Israel

*Yechiel Klar¹, Slieman Halabi², Ran Amram¹, Murad Abu Elheja¹,
Gili Ben Dor¹, Bader Taha¹, & David Stobiecki¹*

¹Tel Aviv University

²Friedrich Schiller University

We summarize some of our recent language studies on the Jewish-Palestinian context in Israel suggesting that intergroup language practices cannot be separated from factors such as intergroup emotions and asymmetries in power relations: (1) Jewish-Israelis (N=177) reported greater levels of threat when listening to Arabic artificial (nonsense) words (as compared to Russian or Swedish). (2) When a Palestinian speaker endorsed separation from Israel, highly identified Jewish-Israeli listeners reacted more negatively to the non-accented (vs. accented) Palestinian Hebrew speaker (N=142); However, Palestinian listeners (N=132) reacted mainly to the content of the message. (3) Palestinian listeners reacted more critically to a Palestinian speaker mixing Hebrew words in Arabic speech (code-switching) especially when the speaker endorsed a separationist position. Finally, (4) Palestinian listeners (N=495) were less inclined to join a Jewish-Palestinian discussion group and judged the organizer less positively when the (Jewish) arranger approached them in Arabic (regardless of accent) than in Hebrew.

Talk F2.2: Language as a barrier and bridge: Language and identity among Arabic-speaking students at a Hebrew-speaking university

Friederike Stock¹ & Yiftach Ron²

¹Maastricht University

²Hebrew University of Jerusalem

The study examines the experiences of Arabic-speaking students at one of the largest universities in Israel, where most of the faculty members and students are Jewish and the language of studies is Hebrew. A thematic content analysis of 11 in-depth interviews conducted with native Arabic-speaking students reveals the challenges and difficulties faced by Palestinian students at a Hebrew-speaking university in both academic and social contexts. Acquiring Hebrew skills is reported to facilitate a certain improvement of intergroup contact with Jewish students whereas the lacking proficiency in the language acts as a barrier and is reported to be one of the main separation factors between the groups. Furthermore, the constant exposure to the Jewish majority culture and Hebrew language is found to be linked to a strong sense of Palestinian group identity. The findings expand our understanding of the interrelations between language, power and identity in asymmetric intergroup relationships.

Talk F2.3: Less human? The role of accents and pitch variability for humanness perceptions

Janin Roessel & Dennis Uhrig

University of Mannheim

Research attests to the humanizing quality of spoken language in perceptions as speech confers the sense of a lively mind. Does this hold for different language varieties, specifically native versus nonnative speech? In a first step, we investigated whether a set of random native versus nonnative speech samples systematically differed in pitch variability, a critical cue for humanness ascriptions. This was only evident by tendency and standard deviations among native and nonnative samples were large. Therefore, we orthogonally varied accent (native vs. nonnative) and pitch variability (high vs. low) in a speech perception experiment. Given low pitch variability, speakers received relatively low ascriptions of human qualities, irrespective of accent. High pitch variability led to higher humanness ratings, but this effect was weaker for nonnative speakers. These findings underscore the influence of linguistic features on humanness perceptions and highlight the interplay between linguistic variables, which calls for large-scale approaches in research.

Talk F2.4: Stereotype change or maintenance: Insights from ethnicity-religion cross categorization

Tamara Rakić¹, Melanie C. Steffens², & Atena Salzegar

¹Lancaster University

²Universität Koblenz-Landau

Evidence suggests that accents are more powerful in activating ethnicity categorization than appearance. Moreover, some social categories, such as ethnicity, can be linked with other categories, such as religion. We investigate the question: How do we categorize those who belong to a (mis)matching pair of categories? In the present study we investigated Germans' perception of women either wearing a headscarf (Muslim religious symbol), or not, and speaking either standard German or German with an Arabic accent. The "Who Said What?" paradigm and multinomial modeling yielded that participants categorized targets as stereotype-consistent (e.g., headscarf and Arabic accent) and inconsistent (e.g., headscarf and standard German accent). While stereotype-consistent targets were individually remembered, stereotype-inconsistent targets were individually "ignored" (i.e., not remembered individually but only in terms of their "odd" category membership). These findings are discussed in terms of subtyping and subgrouping for stereotype change.

Talk F3.1: Majority and minority language differences as an identity threat

Margareta Jelić, Ena Uzelac, & Dinka Čorkalo Biruški

University of Zagreb

Minority schooling in minority language may be perceived by majority as identity threat. In the context of minority schooling in Croatia we wanted to explore a) the mediating effect of symbolic threat and intergroup anxiety on the relationship between ingroup identification (ethnic identity and ethno-nationalism) and outgroup discrimination and prosocial intergroup behaviour, b) if the group status (majority vs minority moderates this relationship). Participants were 1467 majority and minority students of elementary and secondary schools. The results confirmed that intergroup threat mediates the relationship between both forms of ethnic identification and out-group orientation, but in different ways: for both measures of intergroup orientations, we found both direct effect of ethno-nationalism and indirect effect via perceived threat (both symbolic threat and intergroup anxiety). However, for the relationship between ethnic identity and out-group orientations only indirect effect of intergroup anxiety was found. Group status was not a moderator of these effects.

Talk F3.2: The impact of language attitudes on official language statistics

Astrid Adler & Albrecht Plewnia

Institut für Deutsche Sprache

One of the most important challenges of current times of increased migration is the perception and handling of otherness. In predominantly monolingual countries (i.e. most of the European states) this otherness is represented i.a. by multilingualism. Ideologies and attitudes on multilingualism, i.e. on other languages than the majority language, have a strong impact on several aspects of social processes, e.g. prejudices and discrimination. In our talk we will show how attitudes on languages affect even seemingly objective and sound statistics, e.g. current census statistics on language in Germany. We will connect an analysis of the shortcomings of the census language question with our sets of representative data on language attitudes from 2008 and 2017/2018. Based on this, we will further indicate how the rather poor results of the census may probably reinforce attitudes on languages.

Talk F3.3: Perception of linguistic bias in news media: Can you tell if your news is biased?

Traci-lee Christianson & Katherine A. Collins

Concordia University of Edmonton

Linguistic bias refers to the differential use of linguistic abstraction to describe the same behavior for members of different groups. Although research has demonstrated that linguistic bias is widely used, few studies have looked at the consequences of exposure to such bias. This study investigated the impact of exposure to a contrived news report about a sexual assault. 65 participants were exposed to one of four versions of the news report that varied by concrete or abstract language and a white or black male suspect. Preliminary results suggest that participants were largely unaware of linguistic bias and that there is an interaction between the group membership of the alleged perpetrator and the language used to describe the crime on perception of the news report as biased. Results will be discussed in terms of important social implications, such as the perpetuation of stereotypes through news media.

Talk F3.4: Thou shalt not kill, thou shalt not interfere – The foreign language effect in moral judgment

Max Hennig & Mandy Hütter

Eberhard Karls Universität Tübingen

Moral judgment research frequently uses sacrificial dilemmas, in which one person can be killed in order to save several others. In this paradigm, not killing is usually assumed to suggest adherence to absolute norms, while killing supposedly indicates sensitivity to consequences of an action. Previous research indicates the existence of a foreign language effect (FLE), such that sacrifices are more likely when scenarios are presented in a foreign rather than native language. Avoiding limitations of previous studies, we applied multinomial modeling to estimate sensitivity to consequences, norms, and general inertia as independent determinants of dilemma responses. Two experiments (N1 = 247, N2 = 574) indicate that the FLE may be restricted to high-involvement dilemmas, in which foreign language reduces norm-sensitivity and inertia alike. While partially compatible with previous research, this also suggests the FLE to be partly an artefact resulting from inertia, which systematically biases responses in other dilemma paradigms.

Talk S1.1: Where are you from? The effect of group status and accent strength on perceptions of non-native speakers

Megan E. Birney¹, Anna Rabinovich², & Thomas A. Morton³

¹University of Chester at University Centre Shrewsbury

²University of Exeter

³University of Copenhagen

Non-native speakers with strong accents are particularly vulnerable to negative stereotypes (Gluszek & Dovidio, 2010; Fuertes et al., 2012). However, because one's accent also marks group membership, some researchers contend that it is the stereotypes associated with these groups, not the accent itself that influence how speakers are perceived (Nesdale & Rooney, 1996; Ryan, 1983). In three experiments, we explore how the status of the non-native speaker's nationality influence interpersonal and intergroup perceptions. Results indicate that when the speaker's nationality is familiar, speakers from low status countries are rated more favourably when their accent is strong rather than weak. Yet, when speakers from high status countries speak with a strong accent, participants report higher levels of intergroup threat. Findings are used to support a holistic approach to investigating perceptions of non-native speakers, one that considers nationality as well as accent strength.

Talk S1.2: The foreign accent bias - A normative perspective

Anna Drożdżowicz

University of Oslo

Experimental studies suggest that foreign accent often leads to a negative bias towards non-standard accented speakers and affects how much credibility they are given (e.g. Lev-Ari & Keysar 2010, Rakić et al. 2011; Dragojevic & Giles 2016). The foreign accent bias has been shown to have negative consequences by leading to discrimination in different contexts (e.g. Solan & Tiersma 2004; Huang et al. 2013). In this talk I examine the normative consequences of these observations. Drawing on recent work in ethics and applied philosophy of language, I will show that the foreign accent bias often leads to specific forms of *testimonial* (Fricker 2007) and *interpretative* injustice (Peet 2017). Although many negative attitudes towards foreign accented speakers fall outside our conscious control (Dewaele & McCloskey 2015), I will suggest that we have certain normative duties towards such speakers that can be derived from their default (but defeasible) moral entitlement to expect to be trusted when testifying (e.g. Goldberg 2019).

Talk S1.3: Intercultural twinnings for social cohesion

Nicole Carignan & Richard Bourhis

Université du Québec à Montréal

The challenge of most multilingual societies is the issue of social cohesion that depends not only on equitable distribution of economic and welfare resources, but also on harmonious relations between contrasting linguistic communities. Intercultural twinnings provide occasions for intergroup contacts between minority/majority group individuals of contrasting language communities. Intercultural twinnings provide optimal face-to-face encounters between individuals in dyads or small teams who learn to work together cross-culturally within structured educational or work settings. The original intercultural twinnings were conducted between Francophone majority undergraduates and recent adult immigrants learning French at the UQAM language school. Such twinnings were developed to help Francophone majority undergraduates acquire better intercultural skills with immigrant minorities, while helping immigrants improve their command of French with local Quebec French speakers. Using basic principles of the contact hypothesis, intercultural twinnings offer majority persons and their immigrant minority partners occasions to get to know each other interpersonally, learn about the other's culture and language, form friendship bonds, reduce prejudice and build common national identities contributing to social cohesion.

Talk S2.1: Hate speech among the powerless: To what extent control deprivation promotes the hateful language.

Wiktor Soral, Michał Bilewicz, & Mikołaj Winiewski

University of Warsaw

Different external circumstances can lead to the spread of hateful language and verbal aggression. In our talk, we would like to examine how varying levels of control deprivation affect the propensity to engage in hate speech. Following the frustration-aggression hypothesis and learned helplessness theory, we propose that short-term control deprivation leads to increased use of hate speech. However, long-term control deprivation leads to decreased use of hate speech. Presumably, the former conditions violate expectations of control and instigate frustration-aggression path, while the latter not. We tested this curvilinear hypothesis in two studies: of a nationwide sample of adult Poles (N=1019), and of unemployed individuals (N=609). In both studies, we found a reliable and expected quadratic relationship, use of hate speech was greatest among individuals with medium (compared to high or low) levels of control deprivation. We will discuss our findings, describe their limitations, and propose future directions.

Talk S2.2: Hate speech against Muslims on German and Danish social media

Andrea Kleene

University of Southern Denmark

According to the Council of Europe (2016) hate speech is defined as any communication that attacks a person or a group “on the grounds of ‘race’, colour, descent, national or ethnic origin, age, disability, language, religion or belief, sex, gender, gender identity, sexual orientation and other personal characteristics or status”. Our corpus, consisting of data from Facebook and Twitter (since November 2017), shows that in Germany and Denmark Muslims are a regular target of hate speech. This ethnic group is defamed by using slurs (like germ. *Kanake* / dan. *perker* ‘dago’), dehumanising metaphors (like *Kanalratte* (‘sewer rat’), *svin* (‘pig’)) or stereotypes (like *Sozialschmarotzer* (‘welfare scrounger’)), *kriminell* (‘criminals’)). The first part of the talk provides a brief overview of how hate speech manifests itself to Muslims on a linguistic level and how Germans and Danes differ in their statements here.

Linguistic Bias and Hate Speech

Talk S2.3: Linguistic biases in describing characteristics and behavior of categorized individuals

Camiel J. Beukeboom & Christian Burgers

VU Amsterdam

Research has shown that activated social category stereotypes systematically influence speakers' language use. Following upon the seminal work on the Linguistic Intergroup bias, our research has focused on new linguistic biases. The Negation Bias and the Irony Bias reveals that the use of negations (e.g., not stupid vs. smart) and Ironic remarks (e.g., 'Wow, that's really smart' about a dim remark) is more pronounced in descriptions of stereotype-inconsistent compared to stereotype-consistent behaviors. Importantly, message recipients draw different inferences when negations or irony are used in behavior descriptions (i.e., lower essentialism), which shows how these biases contribute to stereotype maintenance. Recently we have begun to study the Agency Bias, which focuses on the biased use of active vs. passive formulations in describing behavior in an intergroup context. In this talk I will provide an overview of this work and will present the most recent experimental findings.

Talk S2.4: Linguistic agency bias: Verbs as markers of agency are used more in reference to ingroups than outgroups

Magdalena Formanowicz

University of Surrey

Agency (i.e., striving to achieve goals) is a basic dimension of evaluating social groups, with more agency assigned to ingroups than outgroups. Linguistic agency bias (LAB) captures this tendency in language use. Verbs, prototypically associated with actions, serve as agency indicators; thus, in LAB, ingroups more than outgroups should be described with verbs. Four studies using large-scale quantitative analysis of natural language use covering more than 200 billion words, extending into 20 countries, and addressing various ingroup and outgroup combinations, provide strong evidence for LAB. The automatized part of speech tagging that LAB utilizes gauges the intergroup bias at a grammatical level. Thus, in diagnosing intergroup discourses, LAB is a useful theoretical and methodological extension of linguistic intergroup bias (LIB) because no effort is required to code expressions referencing social groups. In general, LAB further attests to the role of language in the formation and maintenance of social biases.

Abstracts – Poster Talks

Poster Session 1: Language & Immigration

Poster P1.1: The role of language in adjustment and social status: The case of Filipino migrants in Poland

Maria Rosario T. de Guzman & Irene Padasas

University of Nebraska-Lincoln

Filipinos comprise one of the newest migrant groups in Poland, with much of their arrival occurring after Poland's accession to the European Union in 2004. This study explores the experiences of Filipino migrants in Poland and the role of language in their adjustment. 62 Filipinos in Warsaw, Krakow, Wroclaw, and surrounding towns were interviewed for this study. Interviewees had substantial fluency in English and Filipino. Some had fluency in a second Filipino language (e.g., Visayan) and Polish. Data suggest that each language afforded access to different aspects of successful adjustment. Polish afforded instrumental access to resources but only for lower income blue-collar migrant workers and those residing in rural areas. English was integral for work in finance, tech-industry, and teaching. Filipino language(s) was integral for co-ethnic bonding. Polish was especially important in social integration beyond the Filipino community. Findings suggest a complex interplay between language, social status, and migrant adjustment.

Poster P1.2: Decoding emotions across languages: Time course and neural correlates

*Cornelia Herbert, Christine Wiebking, Anika Katzenberger,
Helena Schneider, & Brigitte Fischer*

Ulm University

Embodiment theories propose a relationship between word processing and affective processes in the brain. More specifically, two processing systems are supposed to be involved in decoding the meaning of a word: a fast linguistic system (LS) and a slow imagery-based system (IS). The LS processes linguistic meaning based on fast associative processing. The temporally slower IS processes linguistic meaning based on embodied simulations. Theoretically, only embodied processing (IS) should activate affective brain regions. The present studies (using functional magnetic resonance imaging and electroencephalography) investigated the involvement of the LS/IS during emotion word processing in two languages: the native language being enriched with embodied experiences, and the second language (L2), which is less frequently required for daily social interaction. First results indicate embodied (IS) and disembodied (LS) processing of emotional words in both languages. Crucially, embodied and disembodied processing can occur within the first 300 ms after stimulus presentation.

Poster Session 1: Language & Immigration

Poster P1.3: Good refugees, bad migrants? Language, social perception and helping orientations towards displaced people

Mia Caroline Wyszynski, Rita Guerra, & Kinga Bierwiazzonek

ISCTE-IUL, Centro de Investigação e Intervenção Social, Portugal

Linguistic representations and labels have an important function in social relations: they create and share meaning and shape intergroup dynamics (Carnaghi & Bianchi, 2017). Our study examined the effect of group labels on the social perception of displaced people in Germany. We examined whether activating different labels to refer to displaced people impacts stereotype content, threat perceptions and helping orientations among host society members. Participants ($N = 304$) were randomly assigned to one of three conditions (refugee vs. migrant vs. economic migrant) and read fabricated case vignettes, featuring a displaced person who arrived in Germany recently. Results showed, as predicted, that the use of different group labels impacts stereotypes held by host society members, as well as their helping orientations. While the label refugee triggered paternalistic stereotypes and evoked dependency-oriented helping intentions, the label economic migrants elicited envious stereotypes and decreased help affirmation. Practical implications are discussed.

Poster P1.4: Populism and immigration in Italian political communication. A comparison of Facebook posts of Salvini and Di Maio (2013 – 2018)

Gilda Sensales & Gabriele Di Cicco

Sapienza University of Rome

The exploratory survey analyzes the lexicon used on Facebook to talk about immigrants from Di Maio and Salvini, the two Italian leaders secretaries of the political forces that formed the last Italian government. This government is characterized by a populist ideology presenting differences between the two leaders in tone and contents about various topics, among which the immigration one stands out. The analysis starts in 2013, when Di Maio opens his official page on Facebook, and ends with the last day of the election campaign, March 3, 2018. The posts dedicated to immigration, 90 for Di Maio and 272 for Salvini, were compared with the LIWC software (Pennebaker, Boyd, Jordan, & Blackburn, 2015). Some characteristics of the lexicon of the two leaders confirm significant differences, as for example in the case of the greater negative salience of the theme for Salvini, compared to Di Maio.

Poster Session 1: Language & Immigration

Poster P1.5: Lemko language as a protective factor in historical trauma

Magdalena Skrodzka, Karolina Hansen, Justyna Olko & Michał Bilewicz

University of Warsaw

Lemkos are a Polish minority group that in 1947 was forcibly resettled by Polish authorities and was forced to assimilate to the majority society. Part of Lemkos, due to political unrest, lost their life or was deported to political camps. All of the group's losses and tragic events had an impact on the next generations. Transgenerational transfer of psychological and social consequences of traumatic experiences is called historical trauma. In our study, we examined the role of identity and minority language as protecting factors against historical trauma and associated psychological symptoms. A survey was conducted among Lemkos born after 1947 ($N = 238$). We found a moderating effect of minority language usage on the relationship between historical trauma and negative psychological symptoms of historical trauma. The impact of identity was not significant. Summarized, use of the minority language can protect in-group members against negative psychological consequences of historical trauma.

Poster Session 2: Language Bias and Methodologies

Poster P2.1: To what extent is the linguistic intergroup bias a subtle bias?

Yvette Assilaméhou-Kunz & Benoît Testé

Université Sorbonne Nouvelle

The present research aimed to examine to what extent the linguistic intergroup bias (LIB) can be characterized as a subtle bias, i.e. perceived as harmless, unintentional and socially acceptable. Participants ($N = 136$) were presented with a statement made by speaker describing ingroup and outgroup members' behaviors. The speaker expressed either pro-ingroup or pro-outgroup bias (IV1 bias orientation) using descriptions in line with the LIB or expressing blatantly group supremacy (IV2 type of bias). Results showed that the speaker using the LIB was perceived as having a deliberate intention to favor one group. Nevertheless, the speaker was perceived as having less biased intentions, and the statement was perceived as less harmful and more socially acceptable with the LIB than with the blatant bias. Interestingly, these effects of type of bias were mediated by participants' certainty in their judgments. The implications for the consequences of the LIB will be discussed.

Poster P2.2: How metaphors like the “glass ceiling” shape our understanding of and reactions to gender inequality

Susanne Bruckmüller & Maïke Braun

University of Erlangen-Nürnberg

Gender inequality in the workplace is often metaphorically described as a glass ceiling - an invisible barrier blocking women's path to leadership - and related metaphors (e.g., labyrinth). These metaphors illustrate women's experiences and highlight the systemic nature of gender discrimination; however, by focusing on women they implicitly reinforce men as the background norm for leadership. To test the effects of such metaphors, participants in two studies ($N=241$; $N=464$) read a statement describing gender inequality either as women's underrepresentation or as men's overrepresentation, and either with or without a metaphor (women-focused: glass ceiling, labyrinth; men-focused: boys' club). Metaphors caused participants to see gender inequality as a more important issue. simultaneously, a focus on women (with or without metaphor) led to more explanations of gender inequality “blaming” women and to more support for interventions targeting women rather than organizational structures. This illustrates how differences in framing can affect responses to inequality.

Poster Session 2: Language Bias and Methodologies

Poster P2.3: Pass it on! The framing of gender inequality in communication chains

Maike Braun & Susanne Bruckmüller

University of Erlangen-Nürnberg

Asymmetrical framings of gender differences reflect existing power and status differences, thus may contribute to perpetuating inequality. We investigated how such framings are transmitted in communication chains. The first wave of participants ($n = 86$) read a text either about women being underrepresented in leadership or about men being overrepresented. They then explained these different representations. Participants in Wave 2 ($n = 208$) read explanations from Wave 1, before explaining themselves. Wave 3 participants ($n = 199$) read explanations from Wave 2. Overall, participants' explanations focused more on women than on men. Wave 1 participants who read an initial description focused on men used this focus in their explanations. However, this focus was not transferred to Wave 2. The (more common) focus on women was transmitted from Wave 1 to Wave 2, matching previous findings on the transmission of stereotype-consistent versus inconsistent information. Neither focus was transmitted to Wave 3.

Poster P2.4: The link between personality traits and linguistic markers of agency and communion

Agnieszka Pietraszkiewicz,¹ Magdalena Formanowicz,² & Sverker Sikström³

¹University of Bern

²University of Surrey

³Lund University

Agency (achieving goals) and communion (forming meaningful social relationships) are the Big Two of social perception, guiding the way we see ourselves and others. Recently, it has been shown that their importance is reliably reflected in natural language use (Pietraszkiewicz et al., 2018). Here, we investigated relationship between the linguistic manifestations of the Big Two and personality traits (Big Five) of social media users. We analyzed agentic and communal content of Facebook updates written by approx. 40,000 participants and their Five Factor Model psychometric test scores (Costa & McCrae, 1992). We found moderate relationships between linguistic markers of the Big Two and self-evaluated personality traits. When controlling for age and gender, agency captured in language was positively related to self-rated conscientiousness, whereas communion to openness. The study contributes to ongoing debate whether personality traits might be captured in social media and opens new avenues for research investigating social judgements.

Poster P2.5: Semantically unbiased stimuli in linguistic research - How grammar categories emerge in social behavior?

Jan Nikadon, Joanna Dożycka, & Magda Formanowicz

Nicolaus Copernicus University

Agency and communion are two fundamental fields in social cognition. Agency can be demonstrated in certain language dependencies, i.e., by increased preference for verbs usage relative to other parts of speech. Behavioral studies show that specific grammatical cues convey agency. The aim of this presentation is to demonstrate Python based pipeline for preparation of stimuli devoid of semantic bias. Generation, careful selection and classification of pseudowords is essential as they should resemble real language words in terms of orthographic and phonological features, but at the same time they should not resemble any of the specific real words. Our pipeline incorporates tools, such as Wyggy, SketchEngine and Morpheus. We used measures such as Levenshtein distance (OLD20) and first syllable frequency as indicators of Polish language conformity. Word suffixes were used as a grammatical category cues. Our pipeline will be made available to public as a free and open software.