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Uncommon gender

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STELLINGEN

Behorende bij het proefschrift

*Uncommon gender: Eyes and brains, native and second language learners,
& grammatical gender*

van

Hanneke Loerts

1. The Dutch gender system is extremely non-transparent and asymmetrical and hence particularly difficult to acquire, especially in comparison with many other European languages (e.g. Romance languages).

This dissertation

2. Native Dutch speakers can rapidly use common, but not neuter gender-marking, to facilitate language comprehension by predicting upcoming words. Furthermore, gender processing is speeded up for highly predictable nouns.

This dissertation (Chapter 4 & 5)

3. Despite the skewed distribution and the unreliability of gender agreement cues in the input, native Dutch speakers have a very stable representation of gender, as revealed by a robust effect in response to both common and neuter gender violations.

This dissertation (Chapter 5)

4. Input frequency, cue reliability and amount of exposure are crucial in the acquisition of a non-transparent and asymmetrical gender system, particularly at later stages in life. This is clear from the fact that the relatively frequent and reliable common gender can eventually be acquired, but the use and processing of the less frequent and unreliable neuter gender category remains problematic even after years of exposure.

This dissertation (Chapter 7)

5. Late Polish L2 learners of Dutch cannot pre-activate L2 gender information to facilitate comprehension, but, given enough time and exposure, highly proficient L2 learners are able to process and re-analyse violations of common gender-marking in a way similar to native speakers.

This dissertation (Chapter 6 & 7)

6. L1 transfer of lexical gender categories to the L2 does not take place when the mother tongue is typologically different from the second language.

This dissertation (Chapter 6)

7. L2 proficiency is at the core of second language research. It is therefore remarkable to see that this aspect does not always receive the attention it should receive.

This dissertation

8. In het land der psycholinguïstiek is de proefpersoon koning.

Gebaseerd op een Nederlands spreekwoord

9. Publicaties in wetenschappelijke topbladen verhouden zich tot het werkelijke labwerk zoals sociale media zich verhouden tot het echte leven.

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10. I'm not an outlier; I just haven't found my distribution yet.

Ronan M. Conroy