

What can examining adult multilingual acquisition and processing tell you about cognitive and linguistic economy: The case of transfer in third language (L3) acquisition

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Economy drives almost everything related to cognition; least amount of effort for the maximal output. Language is a window into seeing the effects of economy in general. In this talk, I will take you on a journey highlighting how the beginning stages of non-native multilingualism—when bilinguals add another language to their repertoire in adulthood—provides very convincing evidence for the above statement. We will see how the mind (linguistic parser) makes very quick, yet informed decisions on the basis of relatively little target L3 input juxtaposed against the grammars of the two previously acquired systems for the purposes of determining which of the two is transferred as initial linguistic L3 representations. We will see that the majority of available research—via a meta-analysis of 64 experiments from the literature—supports the notion of typological/structurally comparative transfer from either the L1 or L2, whether facilitative or not, in line with the Typological Primacy Model (Rothman 2010, 2011, 2015). In an effort to showcase where the field is going with innovative methodologies, I will finish the talk showcasing recent, ongoing work from my lab featuring EEG/ERP methods.

Biosketch

Professor Jason Rothman is a Full Professor of Psycholinguistics and Bi-/Multilingualism in the School of Psychology and Clinical Language Sciences at the University of Reading (UK) as well as Professor of Linguistics at the University of Tromsø (Norway). At Reading, he is Director of the Psycho-/ Neuro-linguistics lab, a member of the Centre for Integrative Neuroscience and Neurodynamics (CINN) and the Centre of Literacy and Multilingualism (CeLM) as well as research division leader for the Language Development and Ageing group. In Tromsø, he is a member of the Language Acquisition, Variation and Attrition (LAVA) research cluster and the cross-university consortium research group Acquisition, Variation and Attrition (AcqVA) between Tromsø and NTNU in Trondheim. He is a member of the editorial boards of several journals in the field as well as researcher affiliate at centers around the world, including Australia, Portugal, Spain, the USA and Canada. He is executive editor of the journal *Linguistic Approaches to Bilingualism (LAB)* as well as editor of the book series *Studies in Bilingualism (SiBIL)*. His research focuses on language acquisition and processing in children and adult native and non-native language as well as the interface between domain general cognition and language. He is perhaps best known for his theories regarding heritage speaker bilingualism and adult multilingualism (third or more language acquisition). The author of over 120 peer-reviewed works in the aforementioned subfields, some recent research has appeared in: *Bilingualism: Language and Cognition; the Journal of Experimental Psychology: Learning, Memory and Cognition; Language Acquisition; Second Language Research; Studies in Second Language Acquisition; Language, Cognition and Neuroscience; Frontiers in Psychology among others.*