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Acceptability judgement tasks: Comparing Magnitude Estimation with more traditional techniques

Linguistic acceptability judgements are an important type of data in theoretical and applied linguistics and have been collected for a long time. They may be obtained in an informal and a formal, i.e. experimental, way; in the latter case, we talk about acceptability judgement tasks. In this talk I will focus on the use of these tasks in second language acquisition research. I will compare the tasks in which Magnitude Estimation is used and tasks in which more traditional techniques, such as giving judgements on a Likert scale, are used. I will describe linguistic phenomena that are suitable for being tested in each type of task, the description of these tasks, their advantages and disadvantages, and the approach to data analysis in both task types. I will also mention a speeded acceptability judgement task and compare it with the other types of task discussed, in which response time is not measured. The talk will contain examples from second language acquisition studies.

References

Bard, E. G., Robertson, D., & Sorace, A. (1996). Magnitude estimation of linguistic acceptability. *Language*, 72(1), 32–68.

Bio note

Tihana Kraš is Associate Professor in the Department of English Language and Literature at the University of Rijeka, Croatia. She has obtained her BA and MA from the University of Zagreb, Croatia, and her MPhil and PhD from the University of Cambridge, United Kingdom. She has carried out her postdoctoral project at the University of Edinburgh, United Kingdom. Her research is in first and second language acquisition, bilingualism and psycholinguistics, focusing on Italian, Croatian and English. Her work has appeared in journals such as *Applied Linguistics*, *International Journal of Bilingualism and Linguistic*

Approaches to Bilingualism (on whose editorial board she serves). She has also co-authored a book with Maja Miličević entitled *Eksperimentalne metode u istraživanjima usvajanja drugoga jezika* [Experimental Methods in Second Language Acquisition Research], published by the University of Rijeka. She is Director of Bilingualism Matters@Rijeka, a branch of the Bilingualism Matters Centre from the University of Edinburgh hosted by the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences at the University of Rijeka, the aim of which is to disseminate research findings about bilingualism to the general audience.