

Incremental learning in novel and familiar word production

Dr Gary Oppenheim

(Bangor University)

Tuesday 3rd May 2016, 11.00 - 12.30

University of Liverpool

ALL WELCOME

Abstract

With over 40,000 options to choose from, finding a single word in less than a second should be an incredibly difficult task. Yet we do it effortlessly, 16,000 times each day. In this talk, I posit that we continually re-optimize our vocabularies throughout our lives so that the most useful words tend to be most accessible. I'll first introduce a simple model of word retrieval that embodies this idea by learning as it produces each word, and argue that thinking of a person's vocabulary as an adapting system provides a useful basis for understanding how language production works, explaining a range of published data and resolving a few puzzle. I'll then provide new behavioural evidence that this incremental learning produces long-lasting interference between semantically words, both novel and familiar, in even in the most normal of contexts.

Further information

For further information about this seminar, please contact michaeline.k.glover@manchester.ac.uk or about LuCiD, please contact helen.allwood@manchester.ac.uk

The ESRC International Centre for Language and Communicative Development (LuCiD)
is a collaboration between the Universities of Lancaster, Liverpool and Manchester funded by ESRC grant ES/L008955/1