

Grammatical Gender Effects in Bilinguals Production and Comprehension
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One of the most neglected topics in the field of language research is the role of grammatical gender information and the extent to which gender interactions occurs within the bilinguals' mental lexicon. Recently, the importance of grammatical gender in bilingual's comprehension and production has been observed by mean of different paradigm and different bilinguals population. We review our principal results of grammatical gender congruency effects consistently observed using different task (Picture Naming Task, Picture-Word Interference Task, Word Translation Task and Spoken-word recognition) and diverse bilinguals population (with languages of different degree of similarity in the grammatical gender systems). The results confirm that the grammatical gender of the native language affects the production/comprehension of words in a second language. To explain the grammatical gender effect it is important to note that we consider that grammatical gender is represented as an abstract nominal feature and it is always available in lexical processing. In addition, we assume that both languages of a bilingual are simultaneously active in the bilingual mind and that congruent gender nouns share more between-language information than incongruent gender nouns. Because of this, words with a similar gender value across languages are rapidly accessed with regard to words that do not match in gender, and faster response latencies are observed.