Cross-linguistic influence in third language acquisition: Sentence processing and comprehension by child heritage bilinguals

**Objective**

The project TomRis (Cross-linguistic influence in Third language acquisition: Sentence processing and comprehension by child heritage bilinguals) advances our knowledge about the functioning of a child’s multilingual brain and uncovers how a multilingual heritage speaker processes and comprehends a third language in real-time. TomRis is the first study to investigate how typological primacy and structural proximity between the involved languages affect cross-linguistic influence (CLI) in the processing and comprehension of a third language during reading sentences. The
question is whether the (mis)matched properties in morpho-syntactic structures in the prior languages, which are typologically close (Norwegian/Dutch) to or distant (Turkish) from English, facilitate the processing of L3 English sentences or not. TomRis offers a groundbreaking approach to capturing the traces of L1 and L2 in processing L3 English by focusing on the same heritage language (Turkish) in two different linguistic contexts (Norway/the Netherlands). Also, it keeps the task constant in obtaining offline (grammaticality judgement) and online (eye-tracking) processing data during reading. A further novelty in TomRis is the focus on two distinct development stages of language learning to compare the degree and source of CLI in L3 English processing and comprehension at different stages of acquisition. Also, I will match the participants not only based on their proficiency in the L3 (thus isolating potential effects of CLI from previously acquired languages) but also based on their language proficiency in the background languages. Gaining a deep understanding of the factors that facilitate or interfere with CLI in multilingual children is a good investment for the further development of the field. The results will be crucial for all who have to deal with the challenges of multilingual children's language learning such as language educators, policymakers, language therapists, and parents.

**Fields of science**

humanities › languages and literature › general language studies  
social sciences › educational sciences › didactics  
social sciences › psychology › psycholinguistics

**Keywords**

Multilingualism  \hspace{1cm} Heritage language  \hspace{1cm} Cross-linguistic influences  \hspace{1cm} Online processing  
Comprehension  \hspace{1cm} Turkish  \hspace{1cm} Norwegian  \hspace{1cm} Dutch  \hspace{1cm} English  \hspace{1cm} Morpho-syntax

**Programme(s)**

HORIZON.1.2 - Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions (MSCA)  

**Topic(s)**

HORIZON-MSCA-2022-PF-01-01 - MSCA Postdoctoral Fellowships 2022
Call for proposal

HORIZON-MSCA-2022-PF-01

See other projects for this call

Funding Scheme

HORIZON-TMA-MSCA-PF-EF - HORIZON TMA MSCA Postdoctoral Fellowships - European Fellowships

Coordinator

UNIVERSITETET I TROMSOE - NORGES ARKTISKE UNIVERSITET

Net EU contribution

€ 226 751,04

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Region

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Activity type

Higher or Secondary Education Establishments

Links

Contact the organisation  Website  Participation in EU R&I programmes  HORIZON collaboration network

Other funding

€ 0,00

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