
Corpora for Language and Aging Research

CLARe5

UNIVERSITY OF ALASKA ANCHORAGE
MARCH 9–11, 2022



WELCOME

Welcome to CLARe5 2022!

We are thrilled to virtually host this year's conference for language and aging research in Anchorage, Alaska at the University of Alaska Anchorage.

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University of Alaska Anchorage

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CLARe5 Conference Schedule

Wednesday March 9, 2022

8:00am (Alaska Time Zone)

Welcome and Opening Remarks

8:30am

Plenary: Jordan Lewis: Connections between language and aging: Teaching language improves Elder health and wellbeing

9:45am

Session 1: Perceptions of Aging (Chair: Heike Pichler)

Taochen Zhou: Conceptual metaphors of “old age” in English newspapers

Johanna Mechler: Effects of speaker and listener age on professionalism rat(ing)s: A study from the North-East of England

Michael Erard: Toward a linguistics of death

Anna Jespersen & Michaela Hejná: “No one thinks I sound old”: Phonation as a social index—and physiological marker—of the ageing voice

12:00pm

Session 2: Aging Across Languages (Chair: Carolin Schneider)

Alysson Lepeut & Emily Shaw: Interaction management strategies of older Deaf adults: Cross-linguistic insights from American Sign Language (ASL) and French Belgian Sign Language (LSFB)

Anna Smirnova Henriques, Aleksandra Skorobogatova, Svetlana Ruseishvili, Sandra Madureira & Irina Sekerina: BraPoRus, a spoken corpus of elderly heritage Russian in Brazil: Early challenges and future plans

CLARe5 Conference Schedule

Thursday, March 10, 2022

8:00am

Plenary: Suzanne Evans Wagner: Self-recorded audio diaries as a source of data across the lifespan

9:15am

A new journal!

9:45am

Session 3: Constructing Age (Chair: Jana Reifegerste)

Carolin Schneider & Besa Qalaj: “¿Cómo te sientes?–With my butt!”: Code-choice related humor in bilingual speakers living with dementia of the Alzheimer’s type

Agnieszka Kiełkiewicz-Janowiak: Senior voices revisited: Constructing late and later life in Poland

Katrin Karl: Addressee-specific narratives in older age: A qualitative study of narratives from two different groups of older speakers

11:30am

Session 4: Age and Cognition (Chair: Denis Jamet)

Jana Reifegerste: Healthy aging affects storage-based, but not rule-based inflectional processing: A cross-modal priming study on German plurals

Míša Hejná & Anna Jespersen: Ageing well: Social but also biological reasons for age-grading

Michael Cutter, Kevin Paterson & Ruth Filik: Age invariance in syntactic prediction during self-paced reading

Willem van Boxtel & Laurel Lawyer: A matter of memory? Age-invariant relative clause disambiguation and memory interference in older adults

CLARe5 Conference Schedule

Friday, March 11, 2022

8:00am

Plenary: Cécile Fourgeron: Age-related changes in adult speech

9:15am

Session 5: Aging and Society (Chair: Alysso Lepeut)

Jenny Paananen & Camilla Lindholm: Discussing limitations of autonomy in care negotiation meetings between nurses and nursing home residents' family members

Fateme Atraki: Verbal abuse and old age: A sociolinguistic approach to age-based violence in Persian-speaking society of Iran

Svetlana Malyutina, Alina Zabolotskaia, Victor Savilov, Timur Syunyakov, Elena Kurmysheva, Natalia Osipova, Marat Kurmyshev, Olga Karpenko & Alisa Andryuschenko: Subjective complaints and objective measures of the language function in mild cognitive impairment: Evidence from word naming and sentence comprehension

Denis Jamet & Christophe Coupé: Old age, aging and their representations: Methodology for designing an online corpus

11:30am

Session 6: Aging And Variation (Chair: Johanna Mechler)

Letizia Cerqueglini: Cross-generational change and accommodation in spatial language: Successful aging in the Mu"alla" Arabic-speaking community

Sali Tagliamonte, Alison Chasteen & Katharina Pabst: A great story: Aging and the adjectives of positive evaluation

Heike Pichler & Cara Walker: Stative possessives in later life: More evidence from Tyneside

1:00pm

Closing remarks, future plans, and farewells

A serene winter landscape featuring snow-covered evergreen trees in the foreground and middle ground. The sky is a soft gradient of light blue and orange, suggesting a sunset or sunrise. The overall scene is peaceful and quiet.

Plenary Addresses

Connections between language and aging: Teaching language improves Elder health and wellbeing

Jordan Lewis

Alaska Native Elders are the knowledge keepers of our families, communities, cultures, and languages. Despite facing hardships and adversity, they continue to thrive and serve as leaders and mentors, and teach us what it means to age well in the Arctic. With the diversity of Alaska Native cultural groups across geographically and culturally distinct regions of the State, the role of language is critical to health and wellbeing through preservation, documentation, and teaching to youth, as well as the health and wellbeing of Elders sharing this knowledge. This presentation will discuss research and community knowledge on aging in the Alaska Native community, the Elders' role in the preservation, documentation, and teaching of language, and the importance of these generative acts to their health and wellbeing.

Age-related changes in adult speech

Cécile Fougeron

In this talk, I will first review the changes in speech during adulthood. The illustrations will be based on analyses of the MonPaGe_HA cross-sectional database comprising recordings of 500 French adult speakers aged 20–93 years. Chronological age is considered as a continuous factor and effects are tested on various aspects of speech: voice quality, pitch, temporal properties, coarticulation and speech-like performance. The results show that some changes in adulthood are more gradual than previously assumed on the basis of group comparisons, and not all can be interpreted as signs of attrition. In the final part of the talk, I will focus on ongoing projects that question how age is indexed in an individual's speech and how age-related changes should be interpreted in relation to intra- and inter-speaker variability in speech.

Self-recorded audio diaries as a source of data across the lifespan

Suzanne Evans Wagner

Longitudinal sociolinguistic panel studies aim to observe and analyze individuals' linguistic change over the lifespan (Cukor-Avila & Bailey 2013). When successfully paired with long-term observation of the speech community, such studies help us to fine-tune our models of language change (Sankoff 2013). However, panel studies present special methodological hurdles, especially with regard to (i) retention of participants; and (ii) disentangling short-term stylistic effects from long-term intraindividual change (Rickford & Price 2013; Wagner & Tagliamonte 2018). In this talk, I introduce the MI Diaries project (PI: Betsy Sneller, co-PI: Suzanne Wagner) and our approach to those hurdles. Potential wider applications for studies of language and aging will also be discussed.

The MI Diaries project is a longitudinal panel study of Michigan English that has been run since April 2020 by the Sociolinguistics Lab at Michigan State University. Developed in the early days of the Covid-19 pandemic in response to the suspension of face-to-face data collection, the project collects self-recorded 'audio diaries' from participants aged 3f across the state (Sneller, Wagner & Ye fc.). To date, we have received over 1,800 diary submissions from over 250 participants, adding up to over 375 hours of audio diary.

Retention of participants is facilitated through the use of a simple mobile app with some gamification elements, the weekly distribution of engaging prompt questions, and the creation of a sense of community among diarists through various means. Because there is no co-present interviewer, this may mitigate the interaction of style and lifespan change; however, the self-recording method also gives rise to new and interesting questions about style effects, such as which audience(s) the diarists believe they are addressing. MI Diaries is actively engaged in making its methods and software available to other researchers, including those working in other disciplines. The simplicity of its data collection approach may make it especially attractive to researchers working with older age populations.

CLARe5 Abstracts



Verbal abuse and old age: A sociolinguistic approach to age-based violence in Persian-speaking society of Iran

Fateme Atraki

Demographic changes can cause social variations, and Iran is one of the countries with the highest old population growth rate in the Middle East. Based on the theoretical framework of Giles and Helmle (2011), elder abuse is intergenerational, and perpetrators are younger than their victims. This paper examines the perception of ageism and verbal abuse related to age in everyday talk. Questions are: is there ageism among the Persian-Speaking Society of Iran? And is there more verbal abuse between the generations in comparison to the past? An online questionnaire in google form has been sent via WhatsApp to family and friends groups, and 60 people aged 20 to 79 years have been answered. They were asked if they experienced verbal abuse, if they have said some abusive statements to others, if they think young/old people experience/use more abusive utterances, if they evaluate this behavior as impoliteness, or is that just a kind of misunderstanding. Responses confirm the experience of ageism among the Persian-speaking society of Iran (35%) and that today there is more verbal abuse and impoliteness among generations (71.7%). 48.3% believe that there is a lack of mutual understanding between generations.

Cross-generational change and accommodation in spatial language: Successful aging in the Muṭallat Arabic-speaking community

Letizia Cerqueglini

The definition of successful aging varies across cultures (Lewis, 2011). In the Muṭallat Arabic-speaking (MA) linguistic community, challenges and successes in old age are linked to the ability to establish effective cross-generational communication. MA is a rural Muslim variety of Palestinian Arabic spoken in Israel in a cluster of cities and villages adjacent to the border with the Palestinian Authority. With 250,000 speakers (Staff, 2020), MA is not endangered.

Nonetheless, as age-based MA corpora (Author, 2016–present) demonstrate, the variety spoken by elders over age seventy (Traditional MA, TMA) and that of those under forty (Neo-MA, NMA) are so different as to often prevent mutual understanding. The cross-generational gap is considered an effect of socioeconomic and cultural changes that occurred over the past seventy years, in which MA speakers integrated into the Israeli educational system, receiving formal education in Hebrew and Standard Arabic. Neo-Palestinian dialects have also undergone a sustained process of internal koineization, becoming progressively similar to educated, written registers of Arabic. Therefore, TMA–NMA cross-generational communication requires a great capacity for accommodation. TMA–NMA accommodation relates here to spatial representations (the intermediate generation is outside my scope). Differently from NMA, TMA (1) largely uses cardinal directions in small-scale descriptions on the horizontal plane (*il-malābis f-il-ḥazāne l-ḡarbiyyih* “the robes are in the western closet”); (2) has two grammatical strategies to locate an object (Figure, F) in relation to a reference object (Ground, G): a. *F qiddām G* and b. *F min qiddām G*, both meaning “F is in front of G” (in b., F and G are prevented from interacting by distance or orientation); and (3) distinguishes between two types of FG vertical relations, *ʿal* (‘on,’ expressing contact between F and G) and *fōq* (‘above,’ without contact between F and G).

I tested TMA and NMA speakers’ accommodation abilities regarding the semantic criteria described, hypothesizing that NMA speakers may apply them at least when communicating with elders, out of customary respect and because of supposedly faster and better linguistic performances (Marini & Andreetta, 2016). Twenty speakers from each age group, in appropriate physical condition, were tested in three communicative, director/matcher experiments. All informants were tested in both director and matcher roles, both within their age groups (control groups) and outside of them. Each experiment contained ten arrays. Director and matcher sat at a table, facing in the same direction, separated by a screen. The director received a picture of a spatial array and described it to the matcher, who had fifteen seconds to choose from three options the array that corresponded to the description. The matcher could ask one question. Results consistently showed that elders accommodated to much higher rates in both language production (86%) and comprehension (97%) for the criteria tested, with shorter reaction times. Only 7% of young people understood TMA spatial semantic criteria and 2.8% could use them actively. Elders were more efficient in compensating for cross-generational linguistic gaps, possibly because they have a more urgent need to communicate.

Age invariance in syntactic prediction during self-paced reading

Michael Cutter, Kevin Paterson & Ruth Filik

Controversy exists over whether older adults are more, less, or equally as likely as younger adults to make predictions during reading [1]. Many studies examining linguistic prediction in ageing have focussed upon prediction of upcoming words. Here, we examined whether older adults use reliable linguistic cues to make predictions about upcoming syntactic structures to a similar extent to younger adults.

We presented readers with sentences in which a noun-phrase coordination structure was made predictable or unpredictable through the presence or absence of the word *either* (e.g. *Josh will order either a large pizza or tasty calzone...*). Prior work shows faster reading at *or tasty calzone* when *either* is present, in eye-movements by young adults [2] and self-paced reading by older adults [3]. However, whether this effect is equivalent in both groups is unclear. Furthermore, [3] found a predictability cost at *large pizza* using self-paced reading with older adults, while [2] found no cost in younger adults' eye-movements. As such, another question was whether this cost in older (and not younger) adults was due to cognitive ageing, or whether younger adults experience similar costs in self-paced reading.

Finally, we examined whether older and younger adults adapted at the same pace to the fact that our study materials contained a high proportion of noun phrase coordination structures relative to natural language. Sixty younger (18-25 years) and 60 older adults (65f) read 32 sentences, half with *either* and half without, in non-cumulative phrase-by-phrase self-paced reading in which new words became visible each time participants pressed the spacebar. Sentences were presented in four regions (see Fig. 1)

We examined effects in both target (e.g. *or tasty calzone*) and pre-target regions (e.g. *a large pizza*) using Bayesian mixed-effect models with Age Group and presence of *either* as predictor variables, and a two-way interaction between these variables (see Fig. 2 for conditional means), and calculated Bayes factors for the interactive effect. At the target region, younger adults read faster ($b = 0.40$, CrI[0.27,0.52], $p(b>0=1)$), and there were facilitative effects of *either* ($b = 0.06$, CrI[0.04,0.09], $p(b>0=1)$), but no interaction ($b = 0.00$, CrI[-0.05,0.05], $p(b>0=0.52)$; $BF_{10} = 0.068$). At the pre-target region, younger adults read faster ($b = 0.32$, CrI[0.21,0.44], $p(b>0=1)$), and there were costs of *either* ($b = -0.06$, CrI[-0.08,-0.03], $p(b>0=0)$) but no interaction ($b = 0.01$, CrI[-0.04,0.06], $p(b>0=.61)$; $BF_{10} = 0.071$), suggesting equivalent costs across age groups. While both groups showed evidence of adapting to the high prevalence of noun phrase co-ordination structures as demonstrated by an interaction between the presence of *either* and trial number ($b = -0.02$, CrI[-0.04,-0.00] $P(b<0) = 0.977$), there was no evidence that this effect varied with age.

We conclude there are no differences between younger and older adults in the use of *either* to make predictions during self-paced reading, in terms of both later benefits and earlier costs. We suggest efforts should be made to further investigate syntactic prediction in ageing, to determine whether more consistent results emerge across paradigms than has been the case for lexical prediction.

Age invariance in syntactic prediction during self-paced reading (continued)

Michael Cutter, Kevin Paterson & Ruth Filik

Predictable: Josh will order either | a large pizza | or tasty calzone | at the restaurant.
Unpredictable: Josh will order | a large pizza | or tasty calzone | at the restaurant.

Figure 1. An example of an item in each condition, with “|” symbols representing the demarcation of regions in the self-paced reading study.

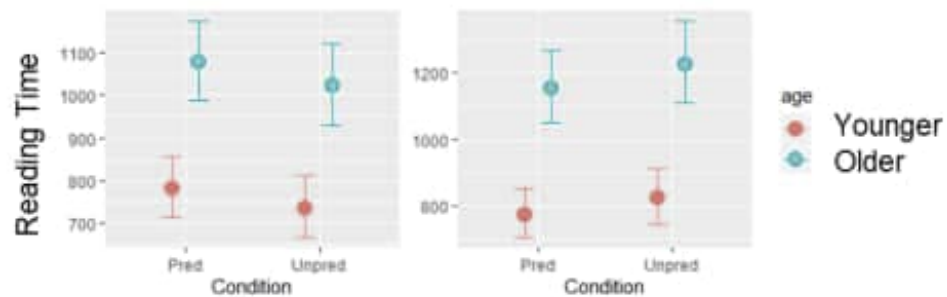


Figure 2. Predicted reading times from our Bayesian mixed models for our pre-target (left; a *large pizza*) and target region (right; *or tasty calzone*). *Pred* represents sentences including *either*; *Unpred* represents sentences without *either*.

Toward a linguistics of death

Michael Erard

“The last words of dying persons are always interesting,” declared Joseph Kaines in the preface to his anthology *Last Words of Eminent Persons* (1866). Yet linguistic scholarship has never explored the variety of linguistic and interactional phenomena (including silence) that occur prior to and during the active phase of dying, in circumstances where death is “naturally occurring” (meaning it is not homicide, suicide, combatant death, or accidental death). Not all people who die are old, but language at the very end of life is the logical culmination of the study of language and aging. In this talk, I will lay out some questions that a linguistics of the deathbed could help to answer and some of the theoretical contributions that the answer could make, drawing from work in linguistics (e.g., Erard, 2021), medicine (e.g., Hui et al., 2015) and speech-language pathology (e.g., Pollens, 2020). The deathbed seems to be a place where biological ability (can someone signal?), communicative intent (can someone mean to signal?), and interactive instinct (does someone want to signal?) become unraveled, at the same moment that linguistic and interactive behaviors becomes tangled up in the expectations of an interlocutor (is that a signal?) and increasingly medicalised environments in which people die. The visible lack of research on this central moment in human experience points to linguistics’ reflexive orientation toward babies, children, and origins, which as scholars of language and aging know has precluded sustained attention to language and aging, leaving scientifically rich topics unexplored.

Ageing well: Social but also biological reasons for age-grading

Míša Hejná & Anna Jespersen

The theory of language change has identified four basic language profiles: generational change, age-grading, communal change, and stability [1-2]. The explanations put forward in the sociolinguistic literature are primarily social, with the linguistic marketplace being the most well-known explanatory factor appealed to [1-4]. In this contribution, we provide an overview of biological factors which should also be taken into account, focusing on phonetic variation. Considering biological factors is important in order to avoid interpreting cases of biological age-grading as (solely) social in nature, and as cases of generational change rather than age-grading to begin with. We therefore suggest that two categories of age-grading be distinguished: socially conditioned age-grading (social age-grading) and biologically conditioned age-grading (biological age-grading).

Examples of biological age-grading

- The linguistic literature has acknowledged and worked with biological changes affecting f_0 , the acoustics of /s/ and VOT prior to and during puberty [e.g. 5-7].
- There are, however, several other life-cycle milestones to consider. The menopause affects females and their speech around the age of 50 [8-10], and the menstrual cycle and pregnancy can also affect speech in fairly complex ways [8, 11-14]. It is primarily f_0 and phonatory phenomena which display hormonal effects: even phonatory events involved in the implementation of phonological contrasts can be affected [15-17]. Indirectly, formant frequencies can be adjusted by the speaker for perceptual motivations if f_0 lowers [9], and so hormonal changes most likely also have implications for non-phonatory phenomena.
- It has also been suggested that the larynx drops as we age [18], which leads to the lowering of (formant) frequencies. This suggestion is not uncontroversially supported by the biological literature [9: p. 639]. However, vocal tract length and volume do increase as we age [19], which needs to be considered in apparent- and real-time studies of frequency-related aspects of speech. This is because acoustic frequency is one of the acoustic domains of all spoken language, although for some phenomena frequency-related changes may have more consequences than for others.
- Other examples include, for instance, tooth loss, the ageing of the auditory system, and the ageing of motor skills.

Although it is straightforward to distinguish social and biological age-grading in theory, a different picture emerges in practice. There are two reasons for this. Firstly, the two types of age-grading can and often do interact. Secondly, the reasons why biological age-grading is rarely mentioned in the literature (in contrast to social age-grading) are no doubt due to the methodological challenges associated with obtaining biological information about the speakers' age profiles. Apart from discussing the ways in which social and biological age-grading interact, we also provide a brief overview of methods that can be used to establish biological correlates of age.

This paper is aimed to stimulate discussions about different reasons for age-grading, and as a useful overview of a. biological factors that are likely to affect language across time; and b. tools that can be used to measure biomarkers, or correlates of biological ageing, even by non-specialists.

Old age, aging and their representations: Methodology for designing an online corpus

Denis Jamet & Christophe Coupé

The notions of “old age”, “aging”, and their representations have been brought to the front in the recent years, especially so with the pandemic which has questioned our views of the elderly. In this presentation, we intend to focus on an online corpus created in 2021-2022 with the help of an online survey. The main reason for the creation of this corpus was the building of a common ground on which researchers from various fields (linguistics, sociology, philosophy, history, literature, law, gerontology, etc.) could question the notions of old age and aging. This online survey is part of a larger research project carried out by the Linguistics Research Center—Corpora, Discourses & Societies, intending to build a multilingual open access reference corpus (Arabic, Chinese, English, French, German, Italian, Japanese, Korean, Polish, Portuguese, Russian, Spanish, Ukrainian) on the discourses of old age and aging, in order to study the various representations in an interdisciplinary, multilingual and contrastive perspective. The aim of the project is to offer a real interdisciplinary approach to the discourses and representations of old age and aging, in collaboration with various disciplinary fields. The online corpus is one part of the project and is composed of data from everyday people’s opinion on old age and aging. This presentation will only focus on data from English-speaking people in an attempt to investigate the connections between language and aging. We created this corpus keeping in mind that we wanted other researchers interested in the question of old age and aging to translate the survey in their languages of study so that they could collect data from various languages and cultures.

The corpus inscribes itself in a collective reflection on corpora, their designs and aims, but also on digital humanities and the questions of linguistic representations of old age and aging. Taking this into account, our presentation will be structured by the following questions:

- Why create a digital corpus on old age, aging and their representations? How is such a corpus designed?
- What personal data do we need to include in our study? Why?
- How do we make sure to protect respondents’ personal data?
- How do we model the results to make them visually relevant?

To try and answer these questions, we will briefly deal with our theoretical framework – corpus linguistics and sociolinguistics—before tackling the reasons for the creation of such a corpus as part of the larger research project. The methodology and tools involved in the corpus building will be discussed and the corpus itself will be introduced so as to give a broad idea of what the corpus entails and the goals we hope to achieve. The corpus was built using the online survey platform LimeSurvey to fulfil RGPD (Règlement Général sur la Protection des Données, i.e. the European “General Data Protection Regulation”) requirements. The survey was posted online, and the data were retrieved and organised in Excel.

“No one thinks I sound old”: Phonation as a social index—and physiological marker—of the ageing voice

Anna Jespersen & Michaela Hejná

Age is an overlooked variable in sociolinguistics (e.g. Eckert 1997; Pichler et al. 2018). Moreover, even though the variable of age crucially underpins much sociolinguistic work, it is often represented simply by years lived. This paper aims to highlight more diverse ways of approaching age and ageing. In particular, it explores the social side of age by showing how six female Tyneside English speakers use phonation as a stance-taking mechanism in conversations about age and ageism, thereby exploring the physiologically-based phonatory changes that may be expected to occur over time.

The speakers fall into three age groups in terms of their date of birth: younger (29 and 21), middle (31 and 36) and older (52 and 57). They bring different perspectives to the discussion of social ageing, and are also at different stages in their biological ageing trajectory. The recordings used in the analyses stem from sociolinguistic interviews. We frame our analyses of these interviews through the application of Membership Categorisation Analysis (MCA). In this framework, the social categories invoked by speakers are analysed and tied up with sociolinguistic variation. The speaker and analyst also discuss the speakers’ “inner”, or subjective age, their life stages, and attitudes to physical and social ageing. Together, these considerations help us establish the speakers’ social age.

In addition, we anchor the discussion of social age by referring to measures of each speaker’s biological age. The biological measures used, the so-called biomarkers (Belsky et al. 2015a; 2015b), allow us to measure aspects of the overall bodily health of each individual. The addition of biomarkers to our discussions assists in the interpretation of speakers’ overall phonatory characteristics as pertaining—or not pertaining—to biological ageing. This interdisciplinary approach enables a more nuanced interpretation of age-related effects on language variation.

We find that breathy voice, falsetto, tense voice and to some extent creak are used both to index different age categories and to mark the speaker’s stance to various physical and social traits associated with such categories. We also find that older and younger speakers attach different meanings both to the phonation types and age categories. Each speaker’s social and biological ages do not always correlate well with each other or with the speakers’ lived years, with older speakers more likely to deviate from their chronology. The speakers with age-mismatches also exhibit the greatest variety in phonation types used, and the clearest uses of them as social indices.

Senior voices revisited: Constructing late and later life in Poland

Agnieszka Kielkiewicz-Janowiak

Longitudinal studies of the same speakers are rare (e.g. Sankoff and Blondeau 2007) and additionally complicated when individual stylistic variation is to be taken into consideration (Rickford and Price 2013). A recent surge in the attention to intra-individual variation has further refined studies in sociolinguistic change (special issue of *Linguistics Vanguard* 2021). As for the study of change as represented in and via discourse, arguably the qualitative approach has successfully captured continuity and change in language and in life (e.g. Nikander 2009).

The present study attempts to investigate language use over the life span, specifically the way language constructs life(time) and represents change and development. The focus is how on speakers talk about the later part of their (and others') lives. Polish participants discussed "being old" at two life-stage points, at ages 65-76 and 80-91. The same individuals were interviewed in 2006 and 2021, with excerpts from earlier interviews serving as vignettes for re-interviews. Thus, late life seniors addressed their earlier assessments of what it takes to be old (in Poland). In both rounds of interviews, they were observed positioning and re-positioning themselves in order to manage their aged selves vis-à-vis their age peers and other generations, and in the context of social expectations (Gullette 2004). The pairs of interviews were then analysed, with the aim to uncover the language use and discursive patterns to mark:

- the participant's responses to their own passing to another life stage
- older adults' constructing their lifetimes, fine-grading the later part of life, in particular, their constructing the difference between young-old and old-old
- change and development.

The analysis of the initial round of interviews showed interviewees' flexible attitudes to age categorisation, claiming and, at the same time, disclaiming age categories. Speakers were also ready to collaborate with the (younger) interviewer to recognize common ground (e.g. events shared). The comparison with re-interviews revealed people's ability to understand the process of ageing from multiple viewpoints and positions (Biggs and Lowenstein 2011). Much of the understanding was achieved interactionally with the interviewer. The older-old sympathized with their younger selves but were critical about their attitudes—all this in the Polish context of the growing social awareness of societal ageing, yet with ageism rarely challenged (cf. Gorman 2021).

Understandably, a new context for attitudes toward older people has been defined by the current pandemic, which has made old age salient in new ways and strongly associated ageing with anxiety. This anxiety has also surfaced in the second round of interviews. The conclusions are at this point only anticipated, as the pandemic disrupted and prolonged the data collection process. The interviews revealed the expected redefining of speakers' understanding of life experience and their perception of life time as well as relations between generations (cf. "[understanding] on the basis of a newly gained complexity and changed coherence—realization in hindsight" Pawelczyk and Graf 2020). The conclusions also address (method-wise) the idea of using parts of previously recorded interviews as input in a follow-up study.

Interaction management strategies of older Deaf adults: Cross-linguistic insights from American Sign Language (ASL) and French Belgian Sign Language (LSFB)

Alysson Lepeut & Emily Shaw

How do older Deaf individuals, within and across diverse ecological niches, manage communication in face-to-face interactions (Ferrara & Hodge, 2018)? To address this question, the present study investigates two key interactional actions, namely the palm-up and index pointing (Figure 1), in the discourse of Deaf older and younger signers from two languages: American Sign Language (ASL) and French Belgian Sign Language (LSFB).

Deaf signers use their bodies to express linguistic information, but they also use it to achieve intersubjectivity and regulate their interaction. This latter dimension of language use has received short shrift in linguistic theories of signed languages. One reason for this was the pressing concern to ground signed languages as proper linguistic systems analogous to spoken languages in the initial stages of development of the field. The impact of aging in signed language production has mainly been investigated in relation to the cognitive processes involved (Luna et al., 2020) and as a social factor driving sociolinguistic variation of the lexicon, phonology, and syntax (Schembri et al., 2018), often resulting in cross-generational misunderstanding (Stamp et al., 2015). There is, however, limited work on the interactional strategies deployed by older Deaf signers to manage their conversations and interpersonal relationships with addressees (some exceptions, e.g., Mesch, 2016; Blondel et al., 2017). The current study aims to fill this gap.

Annotations and corpus-based analyses of roughly 2 hours of face-to-face conversational data were conducted using ELAN. In total, 20 signers (10 per language) were selected, balanced for gender, age, and language background in the LSFB Corpus (Meurant, 2015) and the GUDA Corpus project for ASL (Hochgesang et al., 2019). The following question is addressed: what are the interactional functions of palm-up and pointing actions within and across the two signed languages and age groups under study?

Preliminary results show that palm-up and pointing actions do not contribute substantive content to utterances. Rather, they are used by Deaf participants to signal attunement to their addressee as visible presentations of intersubjective intentions. When there is an open floor, signers negotiate turns as well as knowledge-sharing all at once. The turn-taking mechanism triggers sensitivities to all the social relationships between them. But when they are also negotiating common ground, they mark epistemicity too which shifts dynamically as time unfolds.

Ultimately, the combination of corpus-based analyses with an interactional pragmatic view of language across signed languages and age groups provides insights into the interactional practices of two underrepresented linguistic minorities. This study contributes evidence of two ordinary interactional practices among aging signers which can be used as a baseline to compare against atypical interactional practices that occur as a result of dementia or other types of cognitive decline. The innovation of this study therefore lies not only in its object of study, which includes an overlooked side of linguistics (signed interaction and its functioning) but also in its cross-generational and cross-linguistic scopes by being more socially inclusive towards an underrepresented linguistic minority, viz., Deaf signers, and particularly Deaf older signers.

Subjective complaints and objective measures of the language function in mild cognitive impairment: Evidence from word naming and sentence comprehension

Svetlana Malyutina, Alina Zabolotskaia, Victor Savilov, Timur Syunyakov, Elena Kurmysheva, Natalia Osipova, Marat Kurmyshev, Olga Karpenko & Alisa Andryuschenko

Older individuals often have complaints about worsening of their language function, such as frequently experiencing tip-of-the-tongue (ToT) states, having difficulty retrieving words, et cetera. It is important for clinical practice to understand whether these complaints are indicative of objective deficits in the language domain. In the memory domain, research has shown that subjective complaints are not a good predictor of objective deficits in older adults: often, those who exhibit the most complaints about their memory actually show the highest memory performance, and vice versa (Jungwirth et al., 2004; Rasouli et al., 2019). But so far, very few studies have addressed whether the same discrepancy between subjective complaints and objective deficits holds beyond the memory domain, particularly for the language function (López-Higes et al., 2017). Our study addresses this question in the domain of word naming and sentence comprehension in older individuals with suspected mild cognitive impairment.

Data collection is in progress; the current sample includes 88 patients of the Memory Clinic (81 female; age, years: mean 72, SD 7.7, range 55-89; Montreal Cognitive Assessment score: mean 24, SD 3.0, range 15-30). To evaluate subjective language complaints, we developed a custom questionnaire where participants had to score their agreement with five statements about their everyday language skills and to assess how often they experience the ToT state (average per week). To evaluate word naming, we used a computerized naming-by-definition task where target words were 30 low-frequency nouns. Participants were asked to silently read a definition and to name the target word out loud.

Accuracy and naming latency were measured. To evaluate sentence comprehension, we used a self-paced reading task with 30 grammatically complex sentences. Participants were asked to silently read sentences word-by-word and answer a forced-choice comprehension question. Comprehension accuracy was measured. The analysis tested correlations between the subjective questionnaire scores and the objective measures of word naming and sentence comprehension.

The naming accuracy (mean 80%, SD 14%, range 33-100%) did not significantly correlate with either of the subjective measures: the overall score on the language complaints, $r(88)=.05$, $p=.64$, or the estimated frequency of the ToT state, $r(88)=.13$, $p=.24$. Similarly, the mean naming latency (mean 4321 ms, SD 1285 ms, range 2127-8285 ms) did not significantly correlate with either the overall score on the language complaints, $r(88)=.10$, $p=.37$, or the estimated frequency of the ToT state, $r(88)=-.03$, $p=.75$. Similarly, sentence comprehension accuracy (mean 69.6%, SD 11.1%, range 40.0-90.0%) did not correlate with either the overall score on the language complaints, $r(84)=-.10$, $p=.35$, or the estimated frequency of the ToT state, $r(84)=.05$, $p=.64$. Thus, subjective complaints in the language domain were not indicative of objectively lower performance on word naming or sentence comprehension in older adults with suspected mild cognitive impairment. This dissociation is consistent with previous studies in the memory domain. This suggests that subjective language complaints may be largely driven by confounding factors (such as neuroticism or conscientiousness; Steinberg et al., 2013) and have limited value in diagnosing objective language deficits.

Effects of speaker and listener age on professionalism rat(ing)s: A study from the North-East of England

Johanna Mechler

Sociolinguistic research has shown that both intralinguistic factors (see Levon & Buchstaller 2015) and extralinguistic factors, such as age, socioeconomic status, and gender, play a vital role in the perception process (e.g., Campbell-Kibler 2007; Cavanaugh 2005). Ongoing work by Levon, Sharma and Watt (2020) has revealed the existence of age effects, specifically with respect to the perceived professionalism of the speaker. The aim of the current study is to explore how the perception of vernacular variants is mediated by both listener and speaker age, using sound samples from a panel dataset of sociolinguistic interviews from Tyneside English speakers. Variation and change in the production of Tyneside English are well described (e.g., Watt 2002), however, the variety has only been subject to relatively few perception experiments (e.g., Levon, Buchstaller & Mearns 2020). The present study addresses this gap by exploring the age-graded perception of (ing), a well-documented linguistic feature, in Tyneside English. This study takes a novel methodological approach which draws stimuli from a naturally spoken panel sample. The panel sample features sociolinguistic interviews with three female Tyneside speakers, originally recorded producing a snippet of speech in 2007 as part of the DECTE corpus (Corrigan et al. 2012), and then re-recorded producing the same snippet in 2021. Keeping the speaker voices constant and only varying their age allows for greater experimental control. In the 2021 recording, speakers were instructed to produce two guises: one which featured high, and another which featured low rates of /in/.

In an online survey, informants (n = 69) were asked to evaluate the speakers on a “professionalism scale” in the context of a job application as a local radio host. The experiment used a within-subject design, with each respondent rating all guises. After providing basic sociodemographic information, participants also filled in an attitude survey on North-East varieties and the diagnostic questions of the BAPQ (Hurley et al. 2007), which allows us to examine the impact of cognitive factors.

Initial results suggest that the perception of vernacular /in/ is highly contingent on speaker age. Respondents assign higher age ratings to older speakers, which indicates that listeners are able to pick up on the age differences in the stimuli. Participants also tend to rate these older speakers as more professional. Surprisingly, this is still true even when the vernacular variant is produced, thus, vernacular speakers are not perceptually downgraded as they enter the linguistic marketplace. Further analysis using mixed effects regression modelling will provide more insight into the way these age effects are mediated by intralinguistic factors and/or extralinguistic factors, including the effect of listener age as well as listeners' genders, attitudes, and results of the BAPQ. These findings allow us to develop a more holistic understanding of the cognitive underpinnings of age-related variability in language perception and the impact of such findings for language change across the lifespan.

Discussing limitations of autonomy in care negotiation meetings between nurses and nursing home residents' family members

Jenny Paananen & Camilla Lindholm

In this paper, care negotiation meetings in which family members act as advocates for nursing home residents with dementia were analyzed. The study focused on the limitations posed to the resident's autonomy, which is a particularly sensitive topic that requires careful consideration both from the nursing home staff and from the family members in charge of the resident's affairs. According to Finnish law, limitations to a person's self-determination are only allowed if they are necessary for the person's own safety, well-being, or dignity. However, there is no detailed legislation on the prerequisites or the limitation methods. Due to this, the protocols vary between nursing homes in Finland (Human Rights Centre 2021).

The data consist of 15 authentic care negotiation meetings collected from Finnish nursing homes. In each meeting, there were 1–2 family members and 13 staff members. All the residents in question have advanced dementia and therefore do not participate in the discussion. In other words, the family members are expected to present the resident's will in the meetings and make decisions on their behalf. We analyzed the data using multimodal conversation analysis.

Our findings show that in these meetings, the role of the family members in regard to the limitations is quite restricted. The nursing home staff presents the limitations to the family members and gives justifications for the plan. The information about the limitations is typically presented as a matter of distress, and the staff highlights the temporality and necessity of the limitations. When the staff cites the resident's own well-being to justify the limitations, the family members convey particularly strong agreement with the plan.

However, in cases where the family members express concern or resist the plan, the nurses advise them to contact the resident's doctor. By deflecting the authority over the decisions to a doctor not present in the meetings, the nursing home staff eliminates the family's opportunity to negotiate terms or demand changes during the care negotiation meeting. Furthermore, despite informing the family members that the use of limitations is carefully documented in the nursing home, such documents are not viewed during the meetings. This conceals detailed information about the frequency of limiting from the family members.

Stative possessives in later life: More evidence from Tyneside

Heike Pichler & Cara Walker

Diachronic and synchronic evidence shows that the system of stative possession is undergoing change across varieties of English (e.g. Kroch 1989; Tagliamonte et al. 2010). This development has been confirmed in recent studies of Tyneside English, a variety in the northeast of England: HAVE GOT and, to a lesser extent, GOT, as in (1)-(2), are gradually replacing HAVE, as in (3) (Buchstaller 2016; Buchstaller & Mearns 2018). This paper examines data from older adult Tynesiders to test hypotheses that individuals' socio-economic trajectories and inter-generational contact affect their (non-)participation in ongoing community linguistic change.

- (1) They've got more sense now.
- (2) And that's how I got nae teeth.
- (3) I have a great joke.

The investigation is based on 710 tokens of stative possessives extracted from sociolinguistic interviews collected in 2019-2020 from 47 Tynesiders aged 70f and stratified by broad social predictors. Quantitative analysis shows that while HAVE GOT is the most frequent variant in the data, the relative frequency of variants varies across individuals. Upwardly mobile speakers' variant frequencies align with those observed in cross-generational data from the 1970s (see Buchstaller & Mearns 2018): comparably high frequencies of HAVE GOT and HAVE, low frequencies of GOT. Variant distributions for speakers with stable working-class trajectories, by contrast, closely resemble those observed in community data from the 2000s: higher frequencies of HAVE GOT than HAVE, increasing frequencies of GOT. These results confirm the hypothesis derived by Buchstaller & Mearns from their small-scale panel study of Tyneside English: that social trajectory affects participation in community change, even with variants such as HAVE GOT that are not overtly stigmatized. However, our results do not confirm Buchstaller & Mearns' hypothesis that frequent interaction with young adults affects uptake of GOT. In our data, GOT is consistently associated with male speakers who left school age 15 (see also Tagliamonte 2003), irrespective of inter-generational contact.

Our analysis of stative possessives among older adults in Tyneside thus demonstrates the value of triangulating analyses of longitudinal and non-longitudinal data for testing claims about the direction and sociolinguistic nature of community linguistic change, and calls for more studies that examine the impact of social trajectory and communication networks on everyday language use.

Healthy aging affects storage-based, but not rule-based inflectional processing: A cross-modal priming study on German plurals

Jana Reifegerste

Research on language processing in aging has increased over the past few decades. However, while some aspects of language (e.g., lexical and syntactic processing) have received a lot of attention, fewer studies have investigated morphological processing in older adults. The existing literature suggests particular changes (usually decreases) in processing efficiency for irregular idiosyncratic morphology (e.g., *bring-brought*), while regular, transparent morphology (e.g., *walk-walked*) may remain relatively stable. Most such studies compared younger versus older adults' processing of regularly affixed inflections versus irregular inflections which usually contained stem changes or substitutions, leaving open several questions. First, are findings of decreasing processing efficiency for irregular inflections due to (surface-level) stem changes—or is the reason for the regular-irregular dissociation instead differences in the morphological processing of these forms (e.g., rule-based processing of regular inflections vs. storage-based processing of irregular inflections)? Second, at what point during the adult lifespan do any such changes emerge? Third, what are the (sociodemographic and/or cognitive) reasons underlying these developmental trajectories?

This project seeks to answer these questions by investigating German plurals, making use of a particular feature of German plural formation: While an “open class” of German plural inflections are posited to follow a default rule (e.g., *Zebra-Zebras*, 'zebra(s)'), the affix attached to a “closed class” of non-default plurals may be either phonologically predictable from the singular form (e.g., *Lampe-Lampen*, 'lamp(s)') or entirely unpredictable (e.g., *Kartoffel-Kartoffeln*, 'potato(es)').

In the present study, 250 healthy native speakers of German (aged 18–91 years) participated in a cross-modal priming experiment. The participants performed lexical decisions to default/lexically-unrestricted and predictable and unpredictable non-default/lexically-restricted plurals, which were primed either by a morphologically related word or by an unrelated word. Moreover, all participants underwent neurocognitive testing (declarative memory, procedural memory, working memory, inhibitory control, processing speed), and sociodemographic factors (e.g., education, socio-economic status, reading habits, social contacts, physical exercise) were assessed.

Mixed-effects regression analyses revealed different developmental trajectories for default versus non-default plural forms: Priming effects for non-default plural forms decreased with increasing age. Priming effects for default plural forms, on the other hand, were robust and stable across the lifespan. Interestingly, among the non-default inflections predictability did not appear to play a role, with comparable patterns for predictable and unpredictable forms. The findings thus suggest specific age-related decreases in the efficiency with which non-default inflections are processed, while the processing of default inflections remains stable across the lifespan. The fact that this dissociation occurred even when holding constant affixation and stem changes suggests underlying regular-irregular processing differences as the locus of this phenomenon. The effects of cognitive and sociodemographic factors (as assessed through mediation analyses) as well as (non-linear) change points in the trajectories will be discussed.

Healthy aging affects storage-based, but not rule-based in *lectional processing: A cross-modal priming study on German plurals (continued)
Jana Reifegerste

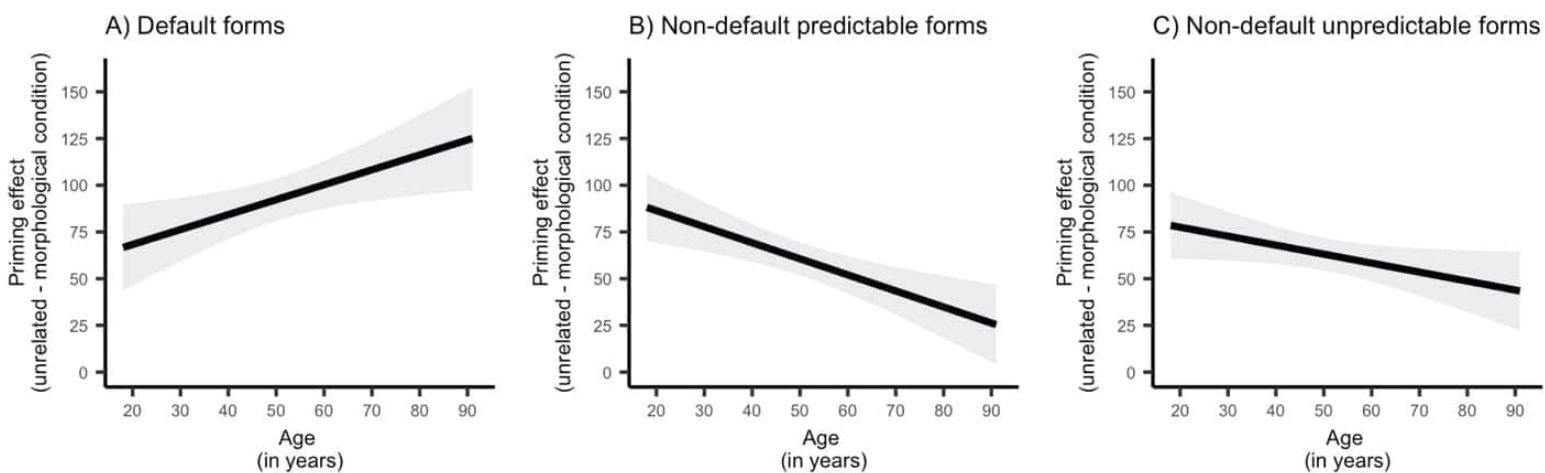


Figure 1: Priming effects (difference between unrelated and morphological condition) as a function of age. Default forms showed no effects of age on priming effect size (though non-significant trends suggested potential increases in priming effect size), while non-default forms showed significant decreases in priming effect size.

“¿Cómo te sientes?—With my butt!” Code-choice related humor in bilingual speakers living with dementia of the Alzheimer’s type

Carolin Schneider & Besa Qalaj

With the aging of societies the number of diagnosed dementias, such as dementia of the Alzheimer’s Type (DAT), is constantly on the rise and so is the number of bilinguals who are living with DAT (cf. Plejert, Lindholm & Schrauf 2017). Communication can pose many challenges for people who are living with DAT (PWD) as well as for their conversational partners (cf. Hamilton 2019:12ff), due to the high dependence on contextual knowledge, cognitive resources, and emotional demands (cf. Wray 2020: 185). Bilingualism adds another layer of challenge, but also of great opportunity in this communicative constellation.

In dementia discourses, PWD are often approached as a homogeneous and passive group, who are seen as controlled by the disease (cf. Schneider & Bös 2019). The same holds for general perspectives on language use and code choice as it is suggested that PWD are no longer in control of their language capacities, instead, linguistic behavior is understood as symptomatic behavior (cf. *ibid.*).

This study investigates data from five narrative interviews held with PWD and their primary care partners speaking English and Spanish in informal settings; the analysis focuses on the humorous moves which are employed by the PWD in both languages. Drawing on the General Theory of Verbal Humor (cf. Attardo and Raskin 1991, Attardo 2001), this study sheds light on the conversational humor on a semantic (i.e. language-dependent) as well as pragmatic level (i.e. contextually situated) initiated by the PWD in this dataset while investigating the interpersonal goals behind such moves.

By analyzing the (intentional) humorous practices, our aim is to gain a better understanding of the pragmatic abilities of PWD which are retained while experiencing communicational challenges in the face of DAT. This study thus contributes to our growing understanding of PWD as competent conversational partners.

BraPoRus, a spoken corpus of elderly heritage Russian in Brazil: Early challenges and future plans

Anna Smirnova Henriques, Aleksandra Skorobogatova, Svetlana Ruseishvili, Sandra Madureira & Irina Sekerina

BraPoRus (the *BRAzilian POrtuguese RUSsian Corpus*) is a novel corpus of moribund heritage Russian in Brazil. D’Alessandro et al. [1] define a heritage language as moribund when it is spoken by a final generation of elderly people whose production and comprehension of heritage language are preserved; when they die, the language dies with them. This is a corpus of speech samples that consists of 160 hours of monologues and 6 hours of dialogues recorded from elderly heritage Russian-Brazilian Portuguese (BP) speakers (Mage = 77 years). They are the descendants of the Russian-speaking families who came to Brazil until the 1960s: Russian “white” stateless refugees, persons displaced in Europe during the Second World War and Russian-speaking refugees from China, mainly Harbin.

We started collecting speech samples in the beginning of 2021, at the peak of Covid pandemic in São Paulo. Currently, there are 31 participants (19 women, age range 59–98). The protocol of data collection includes: (1) a brief demographic questionnaire; (2) a working memory test in Russian and BP using the Month-Ordering task [2]; (3) a semi-spontaneous narrative about the history of the participants’ family and their immigration to Brazil; (4) the Bilingual Language Profile [3]; (5) a sociolinguistic interview with 139 questions adapted from the long HLVC (Heritage Language Variation and Change) questionnaire [4]; and (6) unscripted dialogues between participants. The data are being collected safely in 6–8 online sessions, through phone calls or video on Zoom. Raw data are stored in a business Dropbox account.

Early challenges are (1) large volume (166 hours) of natural speech, (2) ethical considerations concerning anonymization, (3) morphological analysis and syntactic tagging, and (4) optimal solution for making BraPoRus public. Currently, the audio (.mp3) and video (.mp4) recorded data are maintained in their original format in preparation for the first stage of data analysis, i.e., transcription. To test software available for automatic transcription of Russian speech, we selected two 30-min samples from 2 participants, performed manual transcription and then compared it to automatic transcriptions by Google Voice Typing, Vocalmatic [5], and Sonix [6]. Sonix was the most accurate (86%):

Participant	Manual, of words	Sonix (Accuracy)	Vocalmatic	Google
IMK (born in Brazil)	2145	1717 (80%)	960 (45%)	515 (24%)
AVG (came at the age of 5)	2194	2008 (92%)	1786 (81%)	1391 (63%)

In our talk, we address the specific difficulties that the automatic transcription software encountered in working with our bilingual data—heritage Russian and BP (e.g., code switches, function words, etc.) and advocate for inclusion of manual correction afterwards.

Future plans. We envision BraPoRus to serve three distinct goals in studying the characteristics of the moribund heritage Russian of elderly speakers preserved in isolation: grammar (e.g., gender and case assignment and agreement, aspect; information structure; disfluencies); speech (accent, intonation, and prosody); and sociolinguistics (e.g., oral history of the Russian immigration to Brazil; artifacts, such as photos, archival documents, church logs, etc.). The ultimate goal is to make BraPoRus publicly available to researchers through TalkBank [7] and a dedicated web site.

A *great* story: Aging and the adjectives of positive evaluation

Sali Tagliamonte, Alison Chasteen & Katharina Pabst

Different generations are known to vary in their use of certain language forms, particularly the choice of adjectives and especially in certain semantic fields. Because adjectives also encode pragmatic nuances, they are an ideal feature for probing lifespan changes in language. One semantic field known to vary substantially and undergo significant generational shifts is positive evaluation (e.g. Tagliamonte et al. 2020), as in (1–3).

(1) It was a *wonderful* place. (ecanter, born 1916)

(2) I would have been an *amazing* flower child. (cmarietta, born 1960)

(3) So, it was a really *cool* atmosphere... (mcrabbe, born 1970)

Do the adjectives of positive evaluation change across the lifespan or remain stable and if so what are the internal patterns? The data comprise conversational data from individuals born between 1912 and 1971 in the same city: 1) a panel study of 14 individuals interviewed at two points in time, 2003–4 and 2018–9; 2) a trend study of individuals interviewed in 2003–4 and 2018–9; and 3) a cross-sectional study of individuals matched in age to those in (2), but all interviewed in 2018–9. All the data were collected as part of a larger project exploring linguistic, social, and cognitive factors in later life. Adjectives of positive evaluation were extracted from the data, 2356 tokens and 49 types, and coded for social factors (e.g. year of birth, gender) and linguistic factors (adjective type, modification) and analyzed using distributional analysis and statistical modeling in R (R Core Team 2018).

Results demonstrate that adjectives and their relative proportion are stable across groups, except in the individuals interviewed for the cross-sectional comparison (3). In contrast to all other groups, where *great* dominates, in this group the adjectives *good*, *cool* and *great* share the semantic field. *Amazing* is also frequent. This group is different from the others due to the fact that the individuals were born at least a decade after the others. Further investigation reveals two trends: First, certain constructions remain stable across all individuals, e.g. *very good*. Second, some adjectives shift across generations, e.g. *lovely* and *wonderful* decline and *cool*; *awesome* increases. Interpreting these trends in context with reported types of linguistic change across the lifespan (Sankoff, 2019), suggests that despite reports of lexical innovation and versatility in this area of grammar, individuals actually conserve the norms of their generation, neither becoming more conservative as they age (Sankoff & Blondeau, 2007; Sankoff, 2019; Sankoff & Wagner, 2020), nor adapting new forms wholesale. Instead, a stable cohort of adjectives is maintained by all individuals, even in the face of stark age group differences at the same point in time. Indeed, certain adjectives mark generations, *lovely* in the early 1900's, *great* emerging in the 1940's and *cool* in the 1960's. Taken together these findings corroborate earlier research in demonstrating that adjective variation is internally structured, but the forms themselves are sensitive to cultural trends, which not only opens up new possibilities for using such systems for pinpointing the forces actuating linguistic change but also those that drive lifespan developments.

A matter of memory? Age-invariant relative clause disambiguation and memory interference in older adults

Willem van Boxtel & Laurel Lawyer

Background. Past research suggests Working Memory plays a role in determining relative clause attachment bias. Disambiguation preferences may further depend on Processing Speed and explicit memory demands in linguistic tasks. Given that Working Memory and Processing Speed decline with age, older adults offer a way of investigating the factors underlying disambiguation preferences. Additionally, older adults might be subject to more severe similarity-based memory interference given their larger vocabularies and slower lexical access. Nevertheless, memory interference and sentence disambiguation have not been combined in studies on older adults before.

Method. We used a self-paced reading paradigm under memory load interference conditions and collected measures of Working Memory and Processing Speed. Older ($n = 30$) and Younger ($n = 35$) readers took part in the study online and were presented with biased relative clause sentences as well as interference load nouns. Reading times were recorded and measures of comprehension accuracy and load recall were monitored for attention. This setup allowed for the implicit measurement of attachment biases and memory interference effects.

Results. Results show similarity-based interference affected both age groups equally, but was more pronounced in dispreferred NP1-biased structures. Robust preferences for low (NP2) attachment were found in both age groups. Attachment preferences did not differ by group and were unaffected by Working Memory span. Processing Speed affected only Younger adults' reading times, and memory interference effects were further unaffected by either pre-test. However, accuracy on recall prompts, requiring conscious memory access, was affected by Working Memory span in both groups.

Conclusions. Findings of greater interference in dispreferred structures support unified processing models where parsing constraints naturally interact. Our results contradict sentence processing accounts based on individual differences in Working Memory as well as the Processing Speed theory of adult cognition. The lack of age differences on our measures further aligns with research finding age-invariant implicit language processing, and calls for further research into older adults' disambiguation strategies under memory interference conditions.

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This conference is based in Anchorage, Alaska, which is located in the unceded lands of the Denaina Athabascan people, and particularly the Tribal Council of the Native Village of Eklutna. A recognition of that fact and, since this is a virtual conference, the historical peoples of the lands on which you find yourself, if elsewhere may be useful, because it provides a wider context to what you grasp from this conference. This is particularly the case given that the language of this conference is English, but English has not always been the language of this place, and has in fact been used as a tool of oppression and cultural eradication.

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