

FALAS NO LABFON

Sessões de trabalho do Laboratório
de Fonética & Lisbon BabyLab
(CLUL)

28 de Dezembro, 14.00-15.00
Sala 5.2



14.00h-14.45h

[Marta Vergara-Martínez](#) ([ERI-Lectura](#), University of Valencia, Spain)

The processing of idiomatic expressions by readers with Autism Spectrum Disorder: An ERP study (project)

Previous research suggests that the processing of text, especially at the inferential level, is less efficient in readers with high-functioning autism spectrum disorder (ASD) than in readers with typical development (Sansosti et al., 2009). Readers with ASD often fail to understand the meaning of jokes, irony, and idiomatic language. To grasp the intended meaning of figurative language, readers need to go beyond the literal interpretation, a goal that is mediated by the correct integration of the preceding context. Importantly, participants with ASD seem to fail in using semantic context to infer ambiguous meaning, a finding in support of the “weak central coherence account” of ASD, which claims that people with ASD have a processing bias for details at the expense of the global picture. The present study will try to shed light on the processing of a special case of figurative language: idiomatic expressions (kick the bucket), in readers with ASD. Specifically, our aim is to analyze the electrophysiological correlate of context integration and meaning retrieval (N400 semantic-incongruity effect) in a sentence-reading task where participants will be presented with (1) predictable idiomatic and literal expressions, or (2) expressions where the critical words are replaced by a semantically related or unrelated words. If the integration of context is correctly achieved, then readers with ASD are expected to show the N400 semantic-incongruity effect in the literal expressions. If this were also true for the idiomatic expressions, this would mean that the literal meaning of the critical words is not “switched off” when the context renders it unnecessary (opposite to previous findings with readers with typical development). The full details of the experimental design will be discussed in the presentation.

14.45h-15.00h

Discussion

