Examining the relation between production patterns and comprehension costs with code-switched language

**Shifting between perspectives: Examining Code-switching in Hispanic Populations Speaker Series**

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A hallmark of proficiency in two languages is code-switching (the alternating use of two languages in bilingual speech). Many code-switching studies have focused on the production of code-switches, distinguishing the linguistic, sociolinguistic, and psycholinguistic factors that favor the occurrence of code-switches (Clyne, 2003; Gumperz, 1982; MacSwan, 2000; Montes-Alcalá, 2005; Myers-Scotton & Jake, 2001; Pfaff, 1979; Poplack, 1980; Zentella, 1997). The comprehension of code-switches, however, has been studied to a lesser degree (Moreno et al., 2002; Proverbio et al., 2004; Valdés Kroff, 2012). In this talk, I present the results of a study that examines the relation between the production patterns of two types of switches, as displayed by a corpus study, and the comprehension costs associated with those switches, as exhibited by means of an eye-tracking experiment. Two Spanish-English intrasentential switches involving the auxiliary phrase—with different distributional patterns—are examined: estar+English participle switches and haber+English participle switches. The results show that participants’ comprehension costs mirror the production patterns found in the corpus study. Findings are discussed in terms of the constraints that may be responsible for the distributional patterns in code-switching production and they are situated within recent proposals of the links between production and comprehension (MacDonald, 2013; Dell & Chang, 2014).

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