

GRADUATE TALK SERIES: February

Embodied Cognition: Exploring the importance of gesture in reading comprehension

Based on theories of embodied cognition (Barsalou, 1999) and the action compatibility effect (Glenberg & Kaschak, 2002), gesturing while reading should facilitate online comprehension processes when reading about actions that match said gestures. However, other research (Pecher, 2013) indicates gesturing provides no facilitation when processing related objects, suggesting motor affordances are not activated during online processing. In the current study, participants read sentences that described an action while performing gestures with their hands. During a matched reading trial, gestures mimicked the action of the target verb-object pair in the sentence. On mismatched trials the target verb-object pair did not match the performed gesture. We are examining the impact of gestures on reading time of the target verb-object pairs.

Presenter: Brittney Gonzalez

Thesis Chair: Dr. Collins

Thesis Committee Members: Drs. Boucher & Banks

When: February 18, 2015

12:00pm-1:00pm

Parker Building Room 255

****PIZZA AND REFRESHMENTS WILL BE PROVIDED****