

11 Understanding Phrasal Verbs in Monolinguals and Bilinguals

Teenie Matlock
University of California, Santa Cruz

Roberto R. Heredia
Texas A&M International University

Abstract

This study investigates how English monolinguals and bilinguals access lexical forms such as *call on*, which can be interpreted as either a phrasal verb, as in *John called on the student*, or as a verb-preposition combination, as in *John called on the third floor*. The results of an on-line sentence comprehension experiment indicate that both monolinguals and early bilinguals access phrasal verbs more quickly than verb-preposition combinations. The results also suggest that early bilinguals access both phrasal verbs and verb-preposition combinations as quickly as monolinguals do, whereas late bilinguals (even with high proficiency in English) do not.