

1 On-Line Methods in Bilingual Spoken Language Research

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Abstract

In this chapter, we review several methodological approaches to studying spoken language comprehension in bilinguals. In particular, we focus on those tasks that allow for closer scrutiny of sentence level processing, including gating (Grosjean, 1980, 1996), cued shadowing (Bates & Liu, 1996), cross-modal lexical priming (Swinney, 1979), and the auditory moving-window (Ferreira, Henderson, Anes, Weeks, & McFarlane, 1996). Throughout the chapter, we offer suggestions as to how these techniques might be used to investigate a host of issues important to researchers in bilingualism, including but not limited to grammatical priming, ambiguity resolution, and contextual priming. We highlight the potential strengths and weaknesses of each paradigm and, whenever possible, offer suggestions as to future work that might be conducted using a particular experimental procedure. In the end, our hope is that the reader will come away with a stronger sense of the sorts of techniques that are available and are being used by researchers in the field of bilingual sentence processing.