

Heiti á bacheloruppgávu

The Foreign Language Effect and Correspondence Bias: Investigating Bilinguals' Perceptions of Interpersonal Attributions

Abstract

Thinking in a foreign language (LX) decreases cognitive biases and increases logical thinking - this phenomenon is known as the "foreign language effect". Research examining its influence on correspondence bias has yet to be conducted.

This dissertation investigates whether the foreign language effect influences susceptibility to correspondence bias. The hypothesis was that participants would be more susceptible to bias in their first language (L1) as opposed to their second language (LX).

A sample of 120 L1 Faroese speakers who were all fluent in English was randomly allocated to English or Faroese versions of the Neglect of External Demands (NED) scale. A multiple regression model was fitted to examine the effect of language on correspondence bias with NED score, English fluency, and age of English acquisition as predictors. A simple regression was fitted to measure the effect of age on English fluency.

Neither the model nor any of the individual predictors had a statistically significant negative relationship to NED score. The subjects' age had a statistically significant negative relationship with English fluency, likely due to increased English usage among younger participants.

The alternative hypothesis was rejected. However, the findings were consistent with previous research which found that the similarity of the LX to the L1 and the prominence of LX within the culture studied mediate the influence of the foreign language effect. Future research should use an LX that is less prominent within the population observed.