

Outline

Updated: 01/07/2021

Why cognateness is important in bilingualism research Bilinguals process cognates differently than non-cognates, suggesting that they also represent them differently.

Pitfalls in the measurement of cognateness There is consensus that this effect is caused by the difference in amount of form-similarity between cognates and non-cognates, but form similarity—orthographic, phonological, signed, etc.—can be measured across many dimensions. Previous literature has paid little attention to which of those dimensions play a more important role in the processing of cognates.

The case of phonological similarity Phonological similarity is particularly problematic.

This study