

Pia Knoeferle

Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin

Social context effects on language comprehension

The present talk gives an overview of recent findings from our research on social context effects during language comprehension. Numerous studies have provided evidence that effects of (morpho)syntactic and semantic knowledge emerge reliably within a few hundred milliseconds during language processing. Our research assessed to what extent such rapid effects on comprehension are also observed for social context information like the formality of a situation when we compare these to the effects of semantic verb-argument congruence and of morphosyntactic congruence. Do social context effects implicate similar mechanisms as those implicated in the processing of semantic verb-argument and morphosyntactic congruence? I will present the empirical results of this research and discuss first attempts at modelling the findings in an account of socially-situated language comprehension.