

CONCLUSION

In conclusion, according to Lemhöfer et al. (2008) the cross-linguistic interaction of L1 and L2 is to some extent limited as only measurable effects of co-activation is found with cognates. Nevertheless, there seem to be further areas involved in bilingual word recognition which consistently show important cross-lingual influences between L1 and L2. The different studies addressing bilingual word recognition have been traditionally centred on isolated words (e. g. cognates, interlingual homographs). In fact, cross-lingual interferences were shown and this was used as consistent evidence to support the nonselective character of bilingual lexical access. Nevertheless, recent research on bilingual reading aims to provide a more natural and realistic picture of word recognition. Thus, a few studies have considered the influence that sentential context and phonology exercises in bilingual reading. In addition, the implications of bilingual reading have been addressed when the two languages contain different alphabets (e.g. Chinese-English). Finally, a few methodological problems and their consequences have been briefly described.

Further research in the bilingual visual word recognition should continue considering sentential context in future experiments. Therefore, the disciplines of visual word recognition and sentence comprehension should collaborate in order to provide a real picture of bilingual reading with consistent ecological validity. In addition, as it has been mentioned in this essay, phonology seems to occupy an important and often disregarded role in bilingual visual word recognition. Therefore, as many scholars in the field of bilingual visual word recognition have noticed, it is necessary to determine to which extent phonological interacts with semantic and orthographic levels (Dijkstra et al., 1999; van Heuven, Dijkstra & Grainger, 1998). Moreover, the field of linguistics also seems to be necessary in this field. The scope of languages selected for the experiments in visual word recognition should consider linguistically different languages in order to provide a more consistent and real view on how the bilingual brain works. Finally, as Lemhöfer and Dijkstra (2004) stated further research is needed regarding homographic cognates (e. g. *pan*, meaning [bread] in Spanish is an example of an Spanish-English homographic cognate), as the most part of the studies on visual word recognition have centred on interlingual homophones.

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