

Brain responses for multimodal communication in L1 and L2

25 Nov 2021

Speaker: Ye Zhang, PhD candidate from Experimental Psychology, University College London

Abstract

In daily face-to-face conversations, speech is always accompanied by multimodal information, such as prosody, gestures and mouth movements. However, we only have limited knowledge of how these multimodal cues jointly modulate language comprehension. I will present a series of EEG studies using a novel approach to investigate their joint impact when processing naturalistic-style materials. For both L1 and L2 listeners, we found that these cues and their interactions dynamically modulate N400 elicited by lower linguistic predictabilities (indexed by surprisal values per word). Our results suggest that multimodal cues and their interactions should not be neglected for language studies.