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## **Grammatical encoding in speech production: insights from the gender congruency effect**

In this talk, I will first give an overview of the language production process and especially *grammatical encoding*. Then, I will present examples of studies on the *gender congruency effect* in noun phrase production. I will provide experimental evidence from different to demonstrate how theory-driven research has contributed to new insights regarding the discussion about the mechanisms and architecture in lexical access.

The specific question we investigated is whether freestanding and bound morphemes are retrieved following the same processing principles. Experimental studies generally demonstrated reliable gender congruency effects when the utterance format contained a gender-marked freestanding morpheme. This is the case in a variety of languages (Dutch, German, and Croatian), in different utterance formats (NPs and sentences), with several different types of morphemes (pronouns, determiners), and irrespective of the position of the freestanding morpheme (phrase-initial or final). The situation is different for utterances containing gender-marked bound morphemes. In this case, the gender congruency effect has not been observed in German (with color adjectives or indefinite determiners), or in Croatian (with possessive pronouns), and the results from Dutch are mixed. I also plan to present data from Konso, an understudied Cushitic language, native to parts of Ethiopia. Cushitic noun morphology exhibits an interesting interaction between gender and number morphology. I will demonstrate the importance of field-based psycholinguistic data acquisition to inform theories of language processing.

I will conclude by stating that at present the experimental evidence seems to be in agreement with the proposal that the freestanding and bound morphemes are retrieved following distinct processing principles, the first type being subject to competition and the second not.