

To be or not to be multilingual: What makes L3 phonological acquisition unique?

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Multilingualism is a norm rather than exception in the contemporary world and there is a growing recognition that it is a default state of human linguistic competence. Multilingual acquisition has been increasingly viewed as a dynamic and diversified process, offering new insights into language learning that go beyond those stemming from investigations into the first (L1) and second language (L2) alone (Flynn et al., 2004). Such an approach to multilingualism is in line with newest research findings from neuroscience, sociolinguistics or psychology (e.g., Kroll 2020). A growing body of research into third language acquisition (TLA) of phonology demonstrates an inherent complexity of the field reflected, among others, in a broadened phonetic repertoire, increased metalinguistic awareness, enhanced perceptual sensitivity and multidirectional cross-linguistic influence (e.g., Cabrelli Amaro & Wrembel, 2016; Gut & Wrembel, 2024). To advance our understanding of the acquisition of speech from a multilingual perspective, I will offer a state-of-the-art overview of findings from the recent CLIMAD and ADIM projects as well as some theoretical considerations and methodological challenges in L3 research. In this talk I would like to pose a question: *What makes L3 phonological acquisition unique?* and to discuss how going beyond the L2 bias in research enriches or changes our perspective on the development of non-native language production, perception and processing.

References

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