

Marco Calabria (Open University of Catalonia): How is cognitive neuropsychology contributing to bilingualism research?

Neuropsychology may contribute to bilingualism research from a multidisciplinary perspective that includes psycholinguistics and brain imaging studies. On one side, the psycholinguistic approach offers the advantage of guiding the experimental study of linguistic processes in patients with brain damage. On the other, neural models define the underlying brain areas of such processes and help to predict language deficits in patients. However, neural models of bilingualism do not provide accurate predictions about brain damage because they have not been tested with patient data in a systematic way. Nevertheless, they offer the roadmap of the underlying cognitive and linguistic processes of bilingual language control and speech production that are mostly based on findings from healthy individuals. In this talk, I propose how the neurolinguistic approach to bilingualism may be implemented, by including: a) the extension of traditional cognitive neuropsychology to bilingualism, b) the use of psycholinguistic methods in neuropsychology, and c) how neurodegenerative diseases may be a neuropsychological paradigm to study language in bilingualism.