

Faculti Summary

<https://faculti.net/metaphorical-language-processing-and-amygdala-activation-in-non-native-and-native-speakers/>

The study aims to explore how metaphors are processed by second language speakers compared to native speakers, specifically looking at the neural networks involved and whether second language speakers experience the same rhetorical advantages. Conventional metaphors help convey abstract concepts in more concrete terms, facilitating understanding.

The research differentiates between various degrees of metaphorical and literal language, investigating how second language speakers process these expressions during comprehension tasks. The study finds that second language speakers activate the language network more strongly due to the additional demands of processing a second language, and they also engage the switching network to manage interference from their native language.

Key findings include that second language speakers do not differentiate as well between metaphorical and literal expressions as native speakers, showing reduced emotional engagement with metaphors. They utilized similar neural pathways for both types of expressions but with lesser differentiation. The study suggests investigating novel metaphors and the time course of effective engagement in future research, aiming to understand how quickly emotional engagement occurs in processing these expressions.