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*Methodological Othering through “monolingual controls”*

In a lot of recent work on a particular group of multilingual speakers, namely heritage speakers these are described as deviating from native-like mastery in a variety of ways. Because of this, in experimental studies, the comparison between monolinguals and multilinguals is viewed from the perspective of error and vulnerability or lack of proficiency and L1/majority language interference. An exception here is the discussion of the cognitive advance of bilinguals, where bilinguals are found to carry out controlled processing better than monolinguals, see for example work by Bialystok and colleagues (2004). Cognitive control aside, though, typically multilingual speakers are viewed as lagging behind monolingual controls. As Ortega (2005) pointed out, our sampling choices not only create problems for generalizability, but also pose ethical dilemmas. Thus, by othering multilingual speakers, we do not only further contribute to such a lack of generalisability, but also perpetuate ethical dilemmas of discrimination and exclusion. However, once we abandon the notion that the monolingual native speaker is the model of all different types of language acquisition and competence, it is not clear why such speakers should be excluded, since they should just be regarded as part of the normal speaker range.