THE LIBRARY OF BABEL: COGNITIVE NEUROSCIENCE & THE DICTIONARY OF THE MULTILINGUAL MIND

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Interlingual Homographs
English/French: pain, chat
Dutch/English: angel, glad

Which dictionary are they in? English? French?
How many dictionaries are there?

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>SOP Cognates</th>
<th>SO Cognates</th>
<th>OP Cognates</th>
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<tr>
<td>hotel</td>
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SO Cognates

SP Cognates
news/ [nieuws] boat/boot
wheel/ [wiel]

OP False Friends
step (scooter) arts (doctor) kin (chin)

Interlingual Homographs
Homograph: It look’s like Bob’s glad/coat.
Homophone: The leaf/fair was a sign that autumn had come.

Carrasco-Ortiz et al. (2012) found reduced amplitude on N400 in IL homophones
They argue this = facilitation but it could also be frequency
(Lac, Phillips & Peeples, 2008)

Event-Related Potentials (ERP)
Knee/rid

Magnetoencephalography (MEG)

Different ‘senses’ of a polyseme behave differently than homonyms.

English homonym: banl (money) vs. bank (river)
English polysemes: paper (A4) vs. paper (The Sun)

How many lexical entries there are can be signalled by the M350 in a priming paradigm.

The M350 is sensitive to frequency and repetition. It is also sensitive to constituent (rather than whole word) frequency (which suggests access to the morphological root).

References
Dijkstra, T. (1999), Acoustic versus Global+ in Morphology and Phonology. *MPh Prin*

Morphological Roots
Halâ & Marant (1993) argue for category neutral roots which link sound and meaning
Reduced latencies = facilitation while increased latency would signal competition between entries

What if??
Words which have the same meaning but different phonological spell out – let’s call them interlingual allomorphs – compete for post-syntactic insertion.

Whether we are looking at:
Pain/pain
Tout/too
Chien/dog

They are all linked in a single repository: The Library of Babel.