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\textit{Can Incongruent Prosody Disrupt On-Going Interpretation of Idioms?}

**Abstract**

Idioms are formulaic multiword expressions whose figurative meanings are not perfectly inferred from the component words (ex: \textit{kick the bucket} = “to die”). Comprehension studies suggest that people process idioms holistically rather than word by word (Libben & Titone, 2008). Here, we begin to assess whether \textit{prosodic cues} that facilitate the grouping of multiword sequences can facilitate comprehending idioms figuratively. In the present pilot study, we begin to investigate whether listeners rely on pre-boundary lengthening for the interpretation of idioms (figuratively vs. literally).