The PI Group “Multimodal Language and Cognition”

presents in the CLS Colloquium Lunch Series

by Linda Drijvers and Zeynep Azar

Language in a visual world: Contribution of visual context to language production and comprehension in adverse listening conditions and in (Dutch/Turkish) bilinguals

In face to face communication we produce and perceive speech in the context of visual information relevant to language, such as in the context of objects we point to, pictures we talk about or the bodily articulators such as face and hands of language users. It is well known that speakers and listeners integrate what is in the visual world around them to the time-locked linguistic information - that helps them produce, understand and predict language. We will present two studies that further investigate how visual information is recruited by speakers/hearers when speech is hard to hear and in bilinguals. Two short talks will feature 1) how listeners use information from speakers’ lips and hand gestures in a joint visual context to enhance comprehension of speech in noise and how this is enabled by modulating the oscillations of their brain’s neural activities (L. Drijvers) and 2) multimodal language strategies of bilinguals when two languages differ typologically as well as in terms of the type of “gesture culture” (low vs. high) they belong to (Z, Azar). Both studies show that visual context changes speakers’ and listeners’ strategies of how they produce and perceive language. We argue this has serious implications for assessing language skills, such as of hearing-impaired individuals and bilinguals in clinical and education settings.

Tuesday, April 19th 2016, 12:45 (sharp), E 2.50 (Erasmus Building)

Lunch is provided! To register send an e-mail to: clscolloquium@gmail.com

More information: http://www.ru.nl/cls/colloquium