The selection of syntactic features in French speech production: an ERP study *Horemans I*, Jansma BM, Schiller NO* Department of Neurocognition, University of Maastricht, Maastricht, *Max Planck Institute of Psycholinguistics, Nijmegen

When subjects name pictures in the picture-word interference paradigm, they are slower when the distractor has a different compared to the same syntactic gender, referred to as the 'gender congruency effect'. This effect was found for Germanic languages but seemed absent for Romance languages such as French. Here, we applied the paradigm to French and measured onset naming latencies and event-related potentials (ERP) during overt naming. In addition to gender congruency (gender-congruent, gender-incongruent), we manipulated phonological relatedness (phonologically-related, phonologically-unrelated). Preliminary data analysis showed that pictures, which were phonologically related to the distractor word, were named significantly faster than pictures that were phonologically unrelated to the distractors. The morphology of the ERP for all conditions showed a N1, a P2 and a late negativity. Differences of the waves between conditions were evident in the time window 250-350 ms. Mean amplitude ERP analysis in this time window revealed a more negative wave for the phonologically-unrelated versus related condition at fronto-central sites. These data show that applying ERP to overt naming can be informative. They also suggest that the gender and the phonological relation between picture and distractor play a role in a similar time window.

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