

ERPs and Eye Movements as tools for the study of second language acquisition and on-line processing

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Although second language acquisition has long been the topic of linguistic investigation, online techniques have only recently begun to be used regularly to investigate the different stages of L2 acquisition and processing. In the present talk I will discuss the results from my own research laboratory and from that of collaborators, obtained in studies where either eye-movements or event-related potentials (ERPs) were recorded as native speakers and adult L2 learners processed written sentences. I will focus on the different questions that can be answered with these two measures, highlighting both their advantages and limits. The question will also be raised whether conjoining these measures would in fact provide a more complete picture than either method alone can.