

The main aim of this research project is to study to what extent mood (our current emotional state) changes how people understand native (Polish) and foreign (English) words, which are used in sentences. Many studies have shown that people understand their native language in a different way when they are affected by either a happy or a sad mood (e.g., Chwilla *et al.* 2011; Pinheiro *et al.* 2013). We are, however, yet to find out what happens when we add bilinguals to this puzzle (Kharkhurin and Altarriba 2016). To test how the bilingual mind processes words meanings when being in a strong emotional state, a group of 40 Polish-English bilingual women will read 480 native and foreign sentences ending with a word which makes the sentences either meaningful or meaningless. During the experiment, participants will be put in a specific mood by watching a series of short fragments of animated movies, which present either very happy or very sad scenes. Participants' task will be only to read the sentences and, then, decide if they make sense or not. To measure the difficulty in understanding the words used in sentences, the experiment will make use of electroencephalography (EEG), a safe method measuring the brain activity through the electrodes attached to participants' heads.

The novelty of the present research project lies in its focus on bilingualism. In modern times, there is a growing population of bilinguals and multilinguals, and being only a multilingual is a thing of the past (Bialystok 2010). This clearly shows that our research interests should now be turned to the bilingual language user. The results of the project may also be useful for general public, because it focuses on daily communicative interactions by using sentences, and not single words, as the research material. Also, mood colours all aspects of our human existence, which includes the communication with others, in a subtle yet significant way (Van Berkum *et al.* 2013). For this reason, the present project may help us explain if effective communication in a foreign language is doomed to failure when we feel blue, or if we flourish as communicators in a foreign language when we are in good spirits.