

Verbal irony use across cultures: the role of individual and socio-cultural factors.

Verbal irony is generally defined as a type of utterance in which there is a difference between the intended and the literal meaning of what is being said (Garmendia, 2018, Grice, 1975). Irony is used in about 8% of all conversational turns among friends by English speakers living in the USA (Gibbs, 2000). It is part of pragmatic proficiency and communicative skill. Being able to communicate effectively is important for functioning in the society. People are often evaluated in large part on the basis of their communication behavior.

However, not much is known about factors accounting for variability in irony use: Why do some people use irony frequently while others don't? Is there a relation between personality and irony use? Do ironists have a specific sense of humor?

We know even less about irony use among speakers of languages other than English, since the majority of studies have been conducted with English speaking populations.

In the project, we plan to explore factors that are related to irony use in adult native speakers of Polish, English and Turkish, living in Poland, the UK, the USA, Canada and Turkey, with reference to both individual and social factors. These cultures were selected as representing distinct points on the individualistic-collectivistic dimension, with the USA, Canada, and the UK being individualistic, Turkey being collectivistic, and Poland being a mixture of both (Oyserman, Coon, & Kemmelmeier, 2002).

This will be achieved by a two-stage study:

In stage one, we will consolidate existing knowledge of the topic by:

- A. Creating a database of all studies on factors contributing to irony use in adults, including both monocultural as well as bi-/multicultural studies (to the best knowledge of the author of this application, there are no studies on irony use that look at more than 2 cultures). Unlike the majority of many literature reviews (although none comprehensive one has been published on the topic), we will include not only studies that were published in English (although we expect this to be the main contribution of the database, with XXX studies in Scopus), but also studies that were published in other languages (German, Spanish, French, Russian, Polish, and Turkish). This will let us include the missing voices in research.
- B. Conducting a meta-analysis of empirical studies published that analyzed the relation of national culture irony use.
- C. Exploring variability among effect sizes in the studies published in terms of moderator variables.

In stage two, we will conduct an empirical study on irony use among native speakers of three languages – Polish, English, and Turkish – across five countries – Poland, United States, United Kingdom, Canada, and Turkey. By doing this, we plan to determine factors accounting for variability in irony use. We will take into considerations factors such as personality traits, sense of humor, demographics and sociocultural factors.