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**VERBAL IRONY RESEARCH:
THE ROLE OF SPEAKER-ADDRESSEE GENDER
AND STIMULUS MODALITY**

Abstract

Verbal irony is a complex and multifaceted topic, which has attracted extensive interest both from linguistic, as well as psycholinguistic and cognitive perspectives. Research from the latter domains increasingly points towards the importance of considering individual differences and their influence on irony use and comprehension. Furthermore, because of irony's embeddedness in context, the stimuli employed in experimental research should attempt to simulate as many of those contextual features as possible. The following paper consists of a review of recent literature concerning the role of gender in irony use and comprehension, gender being an influential factor in linguistic behavior in general. Additionally, an irony research design employing audiovisual stimuli will be presented. Utilizing a structured framework for empirical research on irony can potentially improve the quality of the obtained results through controlling for various speaker- and situation-related factors, not only limited to gender.

Keywords: psycholinguistics, verbal irony, gender differences, computer-based research, audiovisual stimuli