

Aleksandra Siemieniuk (Maria Grzegorzewska University & University of Economics and Human Sciences in Warsaw)

The Self-Ironic Speaker: A Psycholinguistic Journey into Humor, Identity, and Conversation

Verbal irony has long intrigued researchers, yet the captivating domain of self-irony remains unexplored mainly within psycholinguistics. This study, breaking new ground, aims to delve into the uncharted territory of self-irony. Despite its potential as a powerful communicative tool, self-irony—distinguished by a playful blend of self-deprecation and humor—has not garnered the attention it merits (Bryant, 2012). This study addresses the methodological challenges of examining self-irony, wherein the speaker simultaneously becomes both the creator and the subject of their clever remarks (Owens, 1993; Ortega, 2013).

While much-existing research has focused on understanding irony comprehension, the production of self-ironic utterances has remained underexamined. Often relying on decontextualized language, this research falls short of accurately reflecting genuine conversational dynamics (Port, 2010). In this study, I present an innovative approach to investigating verbal self-irony within the vibrant setting of natural conversations. I employ three distinct methodologies designed to capture self-ironic production within Polish-speaking participants:

1. A referential communication paradigm featuring 15-minute dyadic chats thoughtfully designed with stimuli to provoke self-irony.
2. Self-reported and other-reported measures to gather personal reflections on using self-ironic expressions.
3. Engaging in cartoon-based tasks that include open-ended questions to encourage spontaneous self-ironic remarks.

This research aspires to shed light on the essential role of self-irony in shaping interpersonal dynamics while assessing the strengths and limitations of various methodological frameworks. The insights gained from this study will be invaluable for scholars seeking effective strategies to examine this rare yet fascinating phenomenon in authentic contexts (Wang, 2013). Ultimately, I aim to enhance our understanding of

self-irony and its communicative significance, invigorating the broader psycholinguistic inquiry field and fostering a sense of academic community.