

## **What a speaker of a language without verb cluster interruptions knows about verb cluster interruptions**

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Variation in verb cluster interruption follows from the interaction between general properties of human cognition, namely processing and language, leading to a Verb Cluster Interruption Hierarchy (see Hendriks, unpublished MA thesis). In light of the fact that all speakers possess the same structure-building mechanism and that processing difficulties are also assumed to be the same for all speakers, it is interesting to realise that previous research by Barbiers et al. (2008) has demonstrated that, with a few exceptions, verb cluster interruptions seem to be limited to the Flemish dialects, with a clear cut-off point at the border with the Netherlands. Nevertheless, a new study revealed that the Verb Cluster Interruption Hierarchy is active even in speakers of that language area. The gradual acceptability in a comparative judgement task corresponds to the observed patterns in the Flemish dialects, showing that speakers have knowledge of languages they don't even speak.