

MRI and morphological processing: Where are we, and where to go next?

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Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI) provides a valuable window into how the brain functions, with the particular benefit of allowing us to localise the source of cognitive processes in the brain with millimetre precision. However, and despite its widespread use in cognitive neuroscience, the use of MRI (structural or functional) in neurolinguistics, and particularly in the study of morphology, remains limited, compared to other neuroimaging and behavioural methods. This talk reviews the available literature studying morphological processing with (f)MRI. Studies looking at the processing of inflection and derivation, by both native and non-native speakers of a given language, will be presented. Links to other neuroimaging (ERPs, MEG) techniques will also be provided, as well as to more common behavioural methods. Theoretical implications for the study of morphology will be discussed, as well as suggestions on how to make the most of the technique in future studies.

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