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*Mismatches between acceptability and frequency in syntax and the influence of language-external factor*

In this talk I will present empirical data highlighting striking mismatches between acceptability and frequency data. Both sources of linguistic evidence have been collected with the same set of speakers in order to allow reliable comparisons. The phenomenon under investigation is word order variation with French *wh*-questions. In conclusion, I will argue that the influence of external factors partly explains the mismatch.