

# The role of semantic/syntactic information in processing L2 gender agreement : An event-related potential investigation of the effects of proficiency and L1–L2 similarity

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## RÉSUMÉ

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The present study investigates how second language(L2) learners' proficiency and L1-L2 similarity influence L2 morphosyntactic processing, and how these 2 factors modulate learners' sensitivity to syntactic/semantic predictive information. Specifically, the present study uses event-related potentials (ERPs) to examine the processing of gender agreement in French by French natives, advanced and intermediate learners with gendered (German) and ungendered (Mandarin) L1. To do so, we measure participants' EEG during reading grammatical and ungrammatical French sentences with and without semantic gender, as well as with and without syntactic gender predictive information. We then compare participants' ERPs on experimental items across conditions. By examining how semantic/syntactic predictive information benefits the gender agreement in learners of different L1 across the proficiency spectrum, we aim to better understand the underlying reasons of failed gender agreement in L2.

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**MOTS-CLÉS :** accord de genre, acquisition d'une langue seconde, potentiel évoqué, similarité L1–L2

**KEYWORDS:** gender agreement, second language acquisition, event-related potentials, L1–L2 similarity