# What's morphology got to do with it?

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Morphology is a recognized sub-discipline in linguistics, yet to what extent morphology plays a role in language comprehension and production remains a contested issue. Although word structure has been shown to influence lexical processing, specifically by facilitating word retrieval (cf. Creemers et al., 2020; De Grauwe et al., 2019; Smolka et al., 2018), there is some evidence that sensitivity to morphological structure is strongly intertwined with other linguistic factors, like syllable structure, orthographic depth or meaning compositionality, making it difficult to individuate specifically morphological effects (cf. Embick et al., 2021)(cf. Embick et al., 2021). This is further complicated by inter-speaker variability and differences between languages reported in experimental studies, calling into question whether morphological structures are indeed central for language comprehension.

This talk sets out to investigate the impact of morphological structure on lexical processing in Romance, focusing specifically on prefixed verbs in French and Italian. Presenting the results of several unmasked priming studies for the two languages with different speaker populations, I will attempt to show to what extent morphological structure plays a role in the processing of Romance languages and explore the implications of the experimental results on models of language processing.

**References**

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