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Variation and individual differences in how adults learn Spanish

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Submission to Western Inspiring Minds

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Variation and individual differences in how adults learn Spanish

Adult language learners vary extensively in their learning outcomes and tend to rely on knowledge and memory systems that are different from child language learners, impacting how language input is processed, represented, and retrieved. My research aims to investigate the impact of task design and learner differences on performance with a particularly problematic grammatical structure in Spanish by comparing grammatical accuracy scores on different tasks designed to condition the use of explicit and implicit linguistic knowledge, as these factors may affect performance and may be indicative of the distinct memory and knowledge systems employed by adult language learners. In sum, I aim to highlight the fundamental role that individual differences play in language learning outcomes and recognize the rich linguistic diversity among language users and learners in Canada.