

Language and the body – psycholinguistics in Denmark

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Psycho- and neurolinguistic studies are becoming increasingly popular among Danish linguists. This article provides a basic introduction to the concepts of neurolinguistics and psycholinguistics and discusses how they differ from other linguistic disciplines. In discussing a number of examples from contemporary Danish psycho- and neurolinguistic research, the paper argues that neuro- and psycholinguistics have a strong potential in Denmark. Just like neuro- and psycholinguistic research questions may be informed by ‘traditional’ linguistic research on Danish (as well as other languages), neuro- and psycholinguistic research may also provide valuable insights about language processing, be it general or specific to Danish. While the methods used in neuro- and psycholinguistics were not developed specifically to answer linguistic questions as such, they offer opportunities for understanding the cognitive and neural underpinnings of language and for understanding the relation between language and cognition. Due to methodological concerns, it is, however, a challenge to investigate language and cognition as embedded and enacted.