

**From Thought to Speech: A Critical Review of Levelt's Speech Production Model and Its Applications**

**من الفكرة إلى الكلام: مراجعة نقدية لنموذج ليفلت لإنتاج الكلام وتطبيقاته**  
أكرم الشيباني أحمد كليلة - كلية التربية أبي عيسى - جامعة الزاوية  
[a.klella@zu.edu.ly](mailto:a.klella@zu.edu.ly)

**المُلخَص:**

تُقدّم هذه الدراسة مراجعة شاملة لنموذج إنتاج الكلام لوليم ليفلت، وهو إطار نظري أساسي يفسّر مراحل إنتاج الكلام، ويتكوّن نموذج (ليفلت) من أربع مراحل: التّصور، والصياغة، والنطق، والمراقبة الذاتية، ويصف كيف ينتج المتحدثون اللغة المنطوقة بطريقة منهجية، ويستكشف هذا البحث الأسس النظرية للنموذج، وتطبيقاته في معالجة اللغة، وآثاره على فهم اضطرابات الكلام مثل الحبسة الكلامية، والتلعثم، وعسر التلفظ. علاوة على ذلك، تتناول الدراسة التطورات الحديثة في التصوير العصبي، وإنتاج الكلام لدى ثنائيي اللغة، مع تسليط الضوء على التعديلات والانتقادات الموجهة للنموذج، خاصة فيما يتعلق بخطيته وآليات التغذية الراجعة. وتبرز المراجعة أهمية النموذج في علوم الإدراك واللغويات وتعلم اللغات، مع مناقشة حدوده وإمكانيات تطويره مستقبلاً. من خلال دمج النتائج التجريبية والنقاشات النظرية، تقدم هذه الدراسة رؤى حول تطور نماذج إنتاج الكلام استجابةً للتحديات البحثية المعاصرة.

**الكلمات المفتاحية:** إنتاج الكلام، التصور، الصياغة، النطق، المراقبة الذاتية.

From Thought to Speech: A Critical Review of Levelt's Speech  
Production Model and Its Applications

Akram Shebani Ahmad Klila

University of Zawia, College of Education, Abi-Isa, English Department,

Zawia, Libya

[a.klella@zu.edu.ly](mailto:a.klella@zu.edu.ly)

**From Thought to Speech: A Critical Review of Levelt's Speech Production Model and Its Applications**

---

## From Thought to Speech: A Critical Review of Levelt's Speech Production Model and Its Applications

### Abstract

The study provides a comprehensive review of Willem Levelt's Speech Production Model, a foundational framework that explains the stages of speech production. Levelt's model, consisting of conceptualization, formulation, articulation, and self-monitoring, describes how speakers systematically generate spoken language. This paper explores the model's theoretical foundations, its applications in language processing, and its implications for understanding speech disorders such as aphasia, stuttering, and dysarthria. Furthermore, the study examines recent advancements in neuroimaging and bilingual speech production, highlighting modifications and critiques of the model, particularly regarding its linearity and feedback mechanisms. The review underscores the model's significance in cognitive science, linguistics, and language learning while addressing its limitations and potential future developments. By integrating empirical findings and theoretical discussions, this study offers insights into the continued evolution of speech production models in response to contemporary research challenges.

**Keywords:** Speech Production, Conceptualization, Formulation, Articulation, Self-monitoring.

### 1. Introduction

The process by which humans produce language is a complex cognitive and linguistic phenomenon that has interested researchers for decades. One of the most influential models developed to illustrate this complex phenomenon is Willem Levelt's model of speech production. Levelt model provides a comprehensive framework for understanding how speakers produce speech, forming a cornerstone in psycholinguistics from conceptualization to lexical expression, it provides insights into the mechanisms underlying discourse production.

The quest to understand speech production, language, and the other cognitive abilities related to language, such as recognition, has attracted the interest of researchers from various fields including human neuroscience, psychology, and computer science. We, human beings, speak by compressing and

## **From Thought to Speech: A Critical Review of Levelt's Speech Production Model and Its Applications**

changing the shape of the vocal tract from the lungs to the tongue while simultaneously controlling the larynx. Our language faculty interacts with the perception-action cycle of speech production, where the goal is incremental linguistic encoding (i.e., selecting, ordering, and encoding phonetic/prosodic forms for the concepts that are being expressed), and conversely, different aspects of linguistic structure influence the dynamics of production. This is a fundamental aspect of the human language faculty that must be robust enough to bridge a noisy channel and enable humans to interact with spoken language in complex real-world situations.

The nature of this production process has been debated in the literature, and several attempts have been made to model different aspects. These range from simple character-based approaches, over models that are strictly based on identifying which words were spoken at the lexical level, to more complex generative models down to the articulatory level. Ideally, different levels of representation should be combined in an integrated way to study how the many coordinated processes involved in production interact at different levels, from phonetic form encoding to phonological form encoding and lexical retrieval.

The aim of this study is to provide a comprehensive review of Willem Levelt's Speech Production Model, examining its major components: concept, structure, and articulation, and how they interact with each other for fluency. By exploring the strengths and limitations of the model, this paper will also focus on implications for further research in linguistics, cognitive science, and language learning. In addition, the review will discuss recent developments and criticisms of the model, incorporating it into a broader language production theory and conceptual model.

### **2. An Overview**

Simard (2022) illustrated that Levelt aims to answer the following three critical questions about language production: how many layers of representation can be distinguished in the assembly of a meaningful message, in which ways may thoughts be turned into formulated utterances, and how are formulated meanings performed on the various articulation? According

## **From Thought to Speech: A Critical Review of Levelt's Speech Production Model and Its Applications**

to Levelt (1983), an individual passes through different production layers: conceptualization, formulation, articulation, and self-monitoring. Levelt believes that messages are assembled in parallel, but each layer in sequence. Kerr et al. (2022) stated that the switches from one layer to the next are treated as causally determined by factors intrinsic to the levels concerned, like availability, activation, or timing. The general assumptions and the construction of the model illustrated below provide a clear explanation of the production processes of word retrieval, grammatical encoding, and phonological encoding.

### **3. The Three Stages of Speech Production**

Speech production is a complex process. The psycholinguist Willem Levelt proposed a subdivision of speech production into three stages: conceptualization, formulation, and articulation. Kerr et al. (2023) mentioned that this model is known as the WEAVER++ model. The WEAVER++ model is interesting for its many simultaneous explanations for speech errors, and it gives a good overview of what is known about speech production. A stage that is undeniably present is conceptualization. This is the stage where speakers think of what they want to say, and what information they want to convey. Abdala and Elnadeef (2022) pointed out that Levelt identifies conceptualization and concludes that speech production is a communication problem because speakers think of conceptual models, select a message, and translate this into a language. When the message concept is established, it is sent to a lexicalization center, which lexicalizes it into a hierarchical lexical tree.

The formulation stage is where syntax is used and the grammatical structure of the sentence is shaped. At this stage, phonological selection is carried out. The articulation stage, at last, is where the message is turned into sound. Guhe (2020) states that if we know about algorithm (name of the connections of a network) one to four, we have a good head start and can do useful things. Due to the complexity of the problem, there are many concurrent explanations for speech errors. According to Caucheteux and King (2022), These come from different stages of Levelt's model and can express themselves in the rules and

## From Thought to Speech: A Critical Review of Levelt's Speech Production Model and Its Applications

techniques used for morphing messages to sound, and a systematic model like this has not been applied to written text yet.

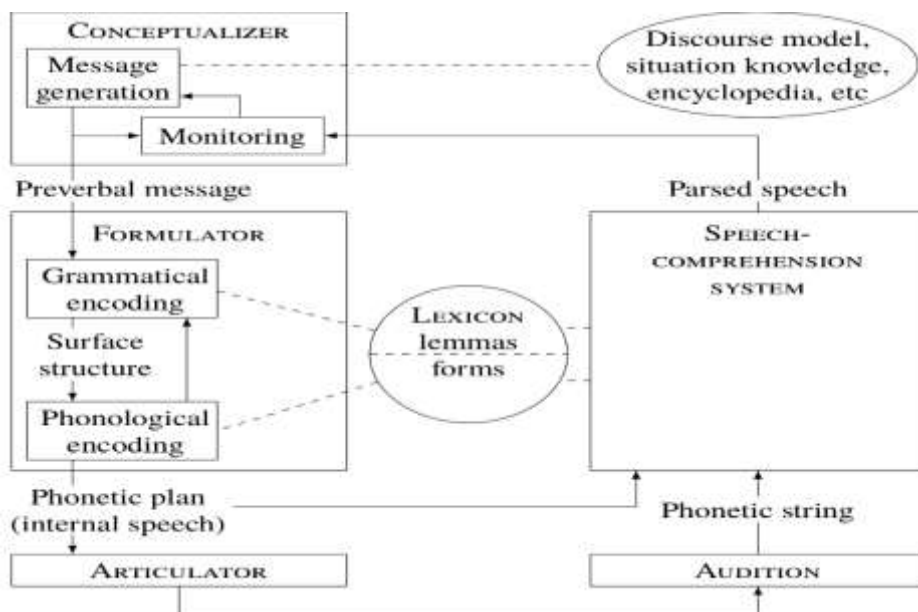


Figure 1: Willem Levelt's Speech Production Model

### 3.1 Conceptualization

The conceptual stage refers to the early stage of speech production in Willem Levelt's model, where the speaker introduces a preverbal message. This includes developing communicative ideas, choosing appropriate words, and formulating ideas before beginning oral writing. At this stage, abstract concepts are processed by consciousness, providing a cognitive representation of the content of the intended narrative. This pre-linguistic mental map is important, because it refers to oral information, but lacks linguistic structure. The cognitive phase is influenced by a variety of factors, including the speaker's goals, context, and knowledge base. Later, it serves as the foundation on which speech patterns, structures and expressions, are built.

During conceptualization, the speaker plans and formulates the message he

## **From Thought to Speech: A Critical Review of Levelt's Speech Production Model and Its Applications**

---

or she intends to convey in thought. In the interest of covering the main aspects involved in this planning and formulation stage of speech production (De Bot, 2020). The conceptualization stage, or preverbal message level, from which various types of Made stems, consists of at least two different components. Firstly, the message level includes the representation of the utterance's meaning as a semantic, discourse, and pragmatic entity. That is, once the speaker has translated the mental state of the utterance's thought, he or she incorporates the developed message with its context, thus producing pragmatic implications. Additionally, the preverbal message level contains a thematic/relational representation showing that the speaker or another person clients a certain action with a certain subject on an object. These distinct components emphasize the distinction between the speaker's "muscular" actions and his or her more complex linguistic actions.

According to Borghi (2020), other hypotheses suggest that conceptualization carries out simultaneously various functions such as processes of discourse-level meaning, including those that require consideration of linguistic forms, such as tense selection: relation-event schema matching produces verb surface element selection; informational packaging designates thematic roles between surface elements and communicative properties, including syntactic placement. Various researchers have also pointed out that wh-questions may present a limitation to defining conceptualization processes. Questions that introduce unfamiliar references could reveal the simultaneous existence of conceptualization processes, beginning conceptualization after the grammatical plan has finished, but not sub-conceptualization.

### **3.2 Formulation**

The formulation stage represents where the preceding message is converted into a structured linguistic form. This process involves the selection of appropriate lexical items and the development of syntactic structure. The gears and puzzle pieces in the picture symbolize the cognitive functions of sentence formation and vocabulary retrieval. Arrows indicate gradual movement from thought to speech, while word bubbles represent emergent linguistic categories that will eventually be discussed. This phase bridges the

## **From Thought to Speech: A Critical Review of Levelt's Speech Production Model and Its Applications**

gap between abstract and physical speech acts and ensures that the intended message is put into grammatically correct and appropriate sentences. The identification phase is important because it organizes the message according to the rules of the language and prepares it for speech.

Levelt formulated his model of speech production keeping in mind the robustness and automatic nature of skilled speech production, and started with the hypothesis that speech production involves a rightward sequence of phonological elements proceeding from the semantic input to the phonological output lexicon, and a leftward sequence for phonetic implementation of the planned sounds - that is, the physical realization of prosodic gestures, syllables and segments. Bernice (2021) indicated that the decision-making aspect was excluded in the model. In the purely strategic formulation, the following points stood out: (a) the generation of phonetic segments and the phonetic-phono-tactic planner, (b) the syllabification planner, (c) the grammatical component, and (f) the insertion of prosodic elements.

By the phonetic-phono-tactic planner, Levelt meant the process of converting phonological timing information into phonetic detail. This process appears to be strategic: in skilled speakers, the articulatory performance is based on absolute, not relative, duration. The duration was fine-tuned to articulatory constraints only for extreme cases. Henderson (2021) pointed out that hyper- and hypo-nasalization of syllables are sensitive to the number of sonorant and fricative segments to be found in a syllable, and are void of syllable in the online processes of general automatized speech production. In the context of a distinction between good and bad speech production, he proposed the existence of a syllabification planner that computes how many speech segments can find a place in a particular syllable. Such a planner functions adequately in most cases, and lesser efficiency in adolescent speakers can result in the production of poorer-quality syllables.

### **3.3 Articulation**

The articulation stage marks the final phase of speech production, where the structured language structure is physically manipulated as spoken language.



## **From Thought to Speech: A Critical Review of Levelt's Speech Production Model and Its Applications**

During this stage, the neural guidance generated during the pharmacological process is transmitted to the nerves responsible for speech including the vocal cords, tongue, lips and larynx. The coordinated activity of these organs produces sound, and results in verbal communication of the intended message.

The articulation stage in the creating words level in Levelt's model is a unique step that only exists in the speech field since it does not exist in the written language field. It involves initiating phonation, starting the vocal cords vibrating, and generating the first vocal sound. It is followed by the movement of the lips, tongue, velum, and jaw. Ziegler et al. (2023) indicated that the process at the creating words level must be governed by the language's phono-tactic rules, also known as phono-tactics - including which sounds appear in the middle and with which other sounds they may be juxtaposed, and constraints on how often any specific sound may appear, among others. When there are articulation errors, the intended speech sound will have an unclear pronunciation, hence keyword detection will likely produce no result or a wrong result (Thanh, 2023). The articulation process is omitted or performed silently in sign languages, yet sign languages and the verbal representations of spoken languages share the same (spoken) language.

In speech recognition, the earlier processes (except language modeling) produce something acceptable to the recognition process. In the most well-known speech recognition models such as the hidden Markov model and the use of neural networks, these models require inputs of the acoustic features of the entire word and not the individual sound. Integrated recognizers such as the traditional acoustic, phonetic, and language models are trained on essentially the same fundamental data (audio signal).

### **3.4 Self-monitoring**

Self-monitoring in speech production is a mechanism that allows speakers to detect and correct errors in their spoken language. Levelt (1983) suggests that speakers monitor their speech through both internal and external loops. This means that individuals can detect and rectify mistakes before they are spoken

## **From Thought to Speech: A Critical Review of Levelt's Speech Production Model and Its Applications**

aloud or after they have been uttered. Research by Oppenheim (2024) supports this view, indicating that self-monitoring operates through a combination of feedforward and feedback processes, ensuring speech accuracy and fluency. Additionally, Guenther and Vladusich (2012) highlight the role of sensory feedback, such as auditory and somatosensory signals, in adjusting articulatory commands in real-time. Despite its efficiency, self-monitoring is not always flawless, as speech errors and disfluencies still occur, particularly in individuals with speech disorders such as stuttering and aphasia (Postma & Kolk, 1993). Understanding self-monitoring mechanisms has practical implications for speech therapy and language acquisition, emphasizing the importance of real-time error detection and correction in spoken communication.

### **4. Empirical Evidence Supporting Levelt's Model**

Consistent with the assumption that lexical selection and phonological encoding coincide independent of the complexity of the speech response, Meyer showed that lexical selection and phonological encoding coincide at a late stage in language production but precede motor programming. Additionally, Oppenheim (2024) summarized that lexical selection and phonological encoding in language production are highly automatic processes with very limited capacity demands and therefore proceed independently of the presence or absence of response uncertainty (Wheeldon & Konopka, 2023). Much of the lexical selection processes co-occur with the phonological encoding process, and that search may be limited to the closest competitors of a prefix and phonemic boundary in many words.

Several reaction time effects show that the time course of word form encoding proceeds simultaneously or partly overlaps with the end of grammatical encoding in sentence production. Schiller and Alario (2023) simplified that by first, picture-word interference effects with inter-sentential and intra-sentential exchanges between a picture and a word indicating that word phonology and identity start at a late stage of grammatical encoding in sentence production. Second, pause and reaction time latencies in language production are sensitive to attentional and working memory demands only

near the end of the grammatical encoding, in particular in speech production, suggesting that phonological and barely syntactic encoding largely overlaps in word form encoding.

## **5. Criticisms and Modifications of Levelt's model**

Although Willem Levelt's model of speech production has been influential in many ways, it is not without its criticisms and subsequent modifications. Scholars have pointed out several limitations to this model, particularly its linearity, the role of feedback mechanisms, and the treatment of certain aspects of speech production.

### **5.1 Linearity of the Model**

One of the main criticisms of Levelt's model is its linear and sequential nature. The model suggests that speech production proceeds through specific steps: idea formation, formulation, and utterance, in a fixed sequence. However, several studies suggest that these factors may not be structured as rigidly as the Levelt model proposed. Instead, they can occur simultaneously or in conjunction, resulting in more dynamic and flexible products.

Interactive models of discourse production are best explained by Dale (1986) and Stemberger (1985). Stemberger pointed out that the processes of lexical acquisition, syntactic structure, and phonological spelling can affect each other. Dale stated that extends in activation theory, activation can extend from phonological levels to lexical sentence levels, resulting in a more integrated approach to understanding speech errors and other factors. Levelt's model is the opposite, where each part is relatively independent and faults are common at different stages of failure They are caused.

### **5.2 The Role of Feedback Mechanisms**

Another important criticism of Levelt's model is its limited emphasis on the mechanisms of feedback in language production. Internal (from the speaker's sensory system) and external (environmental) inputs play an important role in monitoring and facilitating speech but Levelt's original model focuses on feedforward processing variety more, where information flows in one direction from emotion to expression without much thought.

Oppenheim (2024) indicated that speech control, such as the perceptual loop

## **From Thought to Speech: A Critical Review of Levelt's Speech Production Model and Its Applications**

---

theory proposed by Levelt himself, in which speakers use auditory information to detect and correct errors in their speech. This process does not affect the speech production of the original model altogether. Subsequent revisions and new modeling incorporated this feedback information to gain a more detailed understanding of how speakers maintain linguistic accuracy. For example, the DIVA (Directions Into Velocities of Articulators) model proposed by Guenther (1995) integrates both feedforward and feedback control mechanisms and provides a detailed description of how sensory feedback is used to fine-tune motor commands when a speech is made.

### **5.3 Treatment of Lexical Access and Syntactic Planning**

Levelt's model has also been criticized for its treatment of lexical access and grammatical structure, especially in multilingual bilingual contexts. The model maintains a clear division between lexical access (word retrieval) and syntactic processing (forming syntactic structures) but evidence from research on bilingual language production suggests that vocabulary and syntactic processes are more closely related than the model allows.

Kroll-Stewart's (1994) research on bilingualism suggests that the lexical environment of the second language (L2) influences the syntactic structures of the speaker's first language (L1), that is speakers have a more integrated and less segmented way of understanding speech production in a polyglot. These findings have led to calls for modifications to the model to better account for the complexity of language processing in bilingualism and multilingualism.

### **5.4 Modifications and Alternative Models**

Several modifications to Levelt's model have been proposed in response to these criticisms. Some researchers included advanced communication techniques in the model that allow for feedback, parallel operations on phases. For example, Roelofs WEAVER++ model (1997) builds on the Levelt framework do include details of syntax and connections between levels as in phonology, syntax, and semantics. Another change is to add working memory to the model. Baddeley's (2000) work on the episodic buffer

suggests that working memory plays an important role in the storage and transformation of information during language production, an aspect not considered at all in Levelt's original model.

## **6. Implications for Understanding Speech Disorders**

Willem Levelt's speech production model has had important implications in the understanding and diagnosis of speech and language disorders. When speech production is broken down into specific processes thought formation, formulation, and articulation. Levelt's model can show clinicians and researchers where aggression occurs, helping to identify and treat specific speech disorders.

### **6.1 Aphasia**

A language disorder in which the brain is damaged (usually due to stroke) Aphasia can affect speech production in parts depending on the areas of the brain affected. The Levelt model is particularly useful in aphasias with interference occurring in the understanding of staged discourse.

**Broca Aphasia:** Often associated with damage to the left frontal gyrus (Broca's area). Goodglass (1993) summarized that Broca's aphasia affects the major structural component of the Levelt model, especially syntax Patients with Broca's aphasia often produce and lack syntactically simple sentences vocabulary, reflecting a problem in the ability to form grammatically correct sentences, although some cognitive and phonological aspects remain intact

**Wernicke's aphasia:** Wernicke's aphasia is associated with damage to the posterior superior temporal gyrus (Wernicke's area). Kertesz (2007) stated that Wernicke's aphasia affects phonological selection and word selection during the syntactic phase Patients often speak fluently but fluently, and they are often mental errors in word choice (semantic para-speech) and phonological structure Symptoms in coherent speech Indicates a disconnect in the mechanisms of interpretation.

Levelt's model helps clarify how these languages of diversity emerge from disorders at particular times and guides more targeted therapeutic interventions.

### **6.2 Stuttering**

## **From Thought to Speech: A Critical Review of Levelt's Speech Production Model and Its Applications**

---

Stuttering is a language disorder that causes speech disorders, including repetition, delay, and blocking. Levelt's model has been used to examine how difficulties in the formulation and articulation phases can lead to stuttering. Postma and Kolk (1993) summarized that utterance may involve delays or errors in the phonological orthographic process at the orthographic stage. For example, individuals who stutter may have difficulty positioning vowels and forming them quickly enough to keep up with speech production, resulting in unpleasant utterances. Additionally, the paradigm used the emphasis on sequential speech production to assess whether utterances resulted from problems, particularly between pitches and utterances, and synchronous timing between phonological encoding and articulation.

Understanding stuttering through the lens of Levelt's model allows for a more detailed examination of the extent to which speech production is impaired, and provides insight into possible therapeutic mechanisms, such as delayed speech, phonetics fluency and other speech therapies aimed at improving timing and fluency.

### **6.3 Apraxia of Speech**

Apraxia of speech is a language disorder in which individuals have difficulty planning and coordinating the elements necessary for speech. According to Levelt's model, apraxia of speech is primarily a disturbance in the articulation stage. Duffy (2013) indicated that the person knows what they want to say and can achieve the necessary speech and vocal representations, they struggle to translate these cues into the motor commands necessary for utterance.

This problem highlights the importance of the articulation stage in the Levelt model and the need for treatments focused on improving motor planning and execution. Treatment of speech apraxia often requires sequential speech sounds used repeatedly to strengthen the motor pathways necessary for speech.

### **6.4 Dysarthria**

Dysarthria is another speech disorder, but unlike apraxia, it is caused by weakness, paralysis, or dysfunction of the speech muscles rather than a problem with motor coordination. Darley, Aronson, and Brown (1975)

mentioned that dysarthria can affect stages of speech production that stop by its nature and severity. For example, spastic dysarthria often affects the articulation stage, causing slow, slurred speech due to muscle tension, while ataxic dysarthria can disrupt the formulation and articulation phases, resulting in dysregulated speech patterns.

Levelt model helps distinguish between different types of dysarthria by identifying impairment of specific aspects or aspects of speech production, providing an accurate method of diagnosis and treatment.

## **7. Recent Developments and Future Directions**

Willem Levelt's model of speech production has become foundational in understanding the cognitive processes involved in spoken language. However, as research in psycholinguistics and neuroscience increased, new insights and technological advances refined the model and opened up new avenues for recent developments in language study and suggests future directions for further research.

### **7.1 Advances in Neuroimaging and Neuro-computational Models**

Recent advances in neuroimaging techniques, such as functional magnetic resonance imaging (fMRI) and magnetic resonance imaging (MEG) have provided detailed insights into the neural mechanisms underlying speech production. Indefrey (2011) concluded that this technology allows high-level real-time monitoring of brain activity, and muscle and provide empirical support for local intervention. For example, studies using fMRI have further clarified the role of specific brain regions, such as Broca's area and the posterior superior temporal gyrus, in syntactic encoding and phonological processing). Furthermore, MEG enabled the researchers to examine the timing of neural activities corresponding to different stages of speech production, validating the sequence of these processes as described in the Levelt model.

Guenther and Vladusich (2012) stated that neuro-computational models that simulate neural activity during speech production have also become increasingly sophisticated. These models integrate data from neuroimaging studies to map the dynamic interactions between brain regions during

language processing.

### **7.2 Bilingual and Multilingual Speech Production**

Another area of recent progress is the study of language production in bilingual and multilingual individuals. The researchers are examining how Levelt's model applies to multilingual speakers, focusing on how these speakers select and use languages during speech production.

Kroll, Bobb, and Wodniecka (2006) Study has shown that bilinguals activate both languages simultaneously during speech production when only one language is spoken. This model modified the Levelt model to account for additional cognitive load and the likelihood of exposure to languages . Researchers examine how the brain deals with these challenges, especially with words of access and grammatical structure, and how the processes of these differ from those of a single language.

Future models of language production will need to account for the unique challenges faced by bilingualism and multilingualism, including how language control mechanisms work and how these mechanisms may differ from one language to another.

### **7.3 Integration of Working Memory in Speech Production**

Recent research has recognized the role of working memory in language production, particularly in the processing of grammatical orthographic and phonological processing requirements.

Acheson and MacDonald (2009) stated that individuals with greater working memory capacity tend to produce more complex and slower speech, suggesting that working memory is a key component of language performance. This has led to calls for incorporating working memory into models of speech production, providing a more nuanced understanding of how cognitive resources are allocated during speech production.

### **7.4 Application of Artificial Intelligence and Machine Learning**

The rise of artificial intelligence (AI) and machine learning has opened up new possibilities for modeling language production. AI models, especially those based on neural networks, are being used to simulate speech production, providing new insights into the complexity of language



## **From Thought to Speech: A Critical Review of Levelt's Speech Production Model and Its Applications**

---

processing.

For example, deep learning models have been used to simulate phonology and articulation, leading to predictions about speech errors and the effects of different cognitive loads on slow speech (Hinton et al., 2012). They provide a powerful tool for testing production hypotheses and examining the possible effects of various variables on language development.

Future AI and machine learning models can be used to develop more personalized speech therapy interventions, tailored to the specific needs of individuals whose speech impairment. These models can also be used to examine the effect of maturity, dementia, or neurological damage affect speech production.

### **8. Applications and Implications**

Since its inception, Levelt's model has enabled understanding numerous issues in studying speech production under various contexts. Lukačević (2023) argued that although restricted to phonological encoding, Levelt's model laid the foundation for a broader understanding of cognitive influences from cortical networks in speech production. His model also embraced nascent ideas in phonetics. This review lays the groundwork for potential updates of the model, taking into consideration a wider set of mechanisms of speech production driven by theoretical and empirical advances.

Speech requires a variety of stages requiring cognitive effort. At the access proposition stage, milliseconds are consumed generating competing plans involving the various properties of the auditory signal, such as phonological constituents, to explain the subsequent speech stage of lexical retrieval within a word. The initial difficulties in spoken word switching, when competing words share linguistic properties, suggest that their representations interfere at the activation level.

### **9. Future Directions**

As the study of language production continues to evolve, several key areas have been identified as promising avenues for future research. These guidelines aim to address current gaps in understanding speech production, integrate emerging technologies, and refine existing models to capture the

complexity of human speech.

### **9.1 Further Exploration of Multilingualism and Code-Switching**

Kroll, Bobb, and Hoshino (2014) indicated that multilingualism presents unique challenges and opportunities for speech-language research. Future research should focus on understanding how multilingual individuals process multiple languages simultaneously, especially in situations of rule-switching (switching between languages in conversation). Research can examine cognition of the neural mechanisms underlying language selection and variation, and the influence of these mechanisms on slow speech accuracy and can be investigated.

Longitudinal studies, as proposed by Gullifer, Kroll, and Dussias (2013) could also examine how bilingual multilingual language production success developed over time by taking into account such factors as linguistic proficiency, age, and frequency. Thus this research may lead to modifications of existing models, enabling them to be broadly applicable to a variety of language contexts

### **9.2 Integration of Feedback Mechanisms**

Tourville and Guenther (2011) stated that recent research in speech production models has begun to incorporate feedback mechanisms, further research is needed to understand how these mechanisms operate in speech production over time in itself well below. Future research could examine sensory feedback (auditory, somatosensory, and visual). As it interacts with different stages of language production, especially in language control and discipline.

Research could also examine how feedback mechanisms differ in language disorders, such as idioms or apraxia, and how these differences can inform targeted therapeutic interventions (Guenther & Vladusich, 2012). If we understand the role of feedback in language undertaken internally, can lead to the development of advanced models that provide feedback -accountability for strategic processes

### **9.3 Longitudinal Studies on Speech Development and Aging**

Longitudinal studies provide valuable insights into the development of

## **From Thought to Speech: A Critical Review of Levelt's Speech Production Model and Its Applications**

language production across the lifespan (MacDonald & Christiansen, 2002). Future research could follow speech production from childhood to adulthood, identifying developmental milestones and changes in speech production. This study may help to refine the model of language production to account for age-related differences in cognitive processing, motor skills, and language use.

In addition, Kemper (2012) concluded that longitudinal studies can examine the effects of cognitive impairment, such as Alzheimer's disease or other forms of dementia, to understand how aging and cognitive decline in speech production influence speech production and for early detection and intervention strategies.

### **9.4 Cross-Disciplinary Approaches**

The complex nature of discourse production suggests that interdisciplinary approaches are necessary for the advancement of the profession (Dell & Chang, 2014). Future research could benefit from integrating insights from psychology, neuroscience, linguistics, artificial intelligence, and machine learning. For example, collaboration between linguists and AI researchers could lead to sophisticated computational models that mimic language production more accurately.

Interdisciplinary research could also explore the application of AI and machine learning in personalized speech therapy (Hinton et al., 2012). By using large datasets and advanced algorithms, researchers can develop treatment interventions tailored to the specific needs of individuals with language disorders, potentially improving treatment outcomes.

### **9.5 Exploring the Role of Emotion and Social Context**

Although most models of speech production focus on speech perception and linguistic features, future research could examine the role of emotional and social factors in speech production and affect other aspects. Scherer (2013) pointed out that understanding how the perceptual and cognitive processes involved in language production interact may lead to holistic models that better reflect real-world language development.

Similarly, Clark and Brennan (1991) concluded that the social context in which speech occurs can affect speech production. For example, speaking in

## **From Thought to Speech: A Critical Review of Levelt's Speech Production Model and Its Applications**

---

front of a large audience and private conversation can lead to different styles of speech production. Future research could examine how social factors influence language production and how these factors can be incorporated into existing models.

### **10. Conclusion**

Willem Levelt's Model of Language Production has had a profound impact on psycholinguistics, providing a rigorous but accessible framework for understanding how language is produced in the human mind. It has served as a basis for further theoretical research but has stimulated research that has also been implicated in such areas as language acquisition, bilingualism, and language disorders. While the model remains influential, it is not without its limitations. Critics have pointed out that it does not adequately capture the interaction between emotions and products, nor does it address linguistic effects of external factors such as social context. Despite these criticisms, how flexible the model is and what in detail continues to be an important tool for this research and applied linguistics. In conclusion, Levelt's speech production model provides important insights into the complexity of language generation and its underlying cognitive processes. This contribution has far-reaching implications for theoretical and practical applications of linguistics, including language learning, language therapy, and artificial intelligence. As research progresses refining and extending the model will further reveal the dynamic nature of human language production. The development of the Levelt model is likely to continue, providing even deeper insights into the complexity of human language. These developments will develop theoretical knowledge with useful implications for a better understanding of human communication.

### **References**

## From Thought to Speech: A Critical Review of Levelt's Speech Production Model and Its Applications

Abdala, A. H. E. H., & Elnadeef, E. A. E. (2022). Towards English spoken sentence production and generation processes from syntactical and communicative perspective. *International Journal of Linguistics, Literature and Translation*, 5(1), 258-269. Retrieved from <https://www.al-kindipublisher.com>

Acheson, D. J., & MacDonald, M. C. (2009). Verbal working memory and language production: Common approaches to the serial ordering of verbal information. *Psychological Bulletin*, 135(1), 50-68. <https://doi.org/10.1037/a0014411>

Baddeley, A. (2000). The episodic buffer: A new component of working memory? *Trends in Cognitive Sciences*, 4(11), 417-423. [https://doi.org/10.1016/S1364-6613\(00\)01538-2](https://doi.org/10.1016/S1364-6613(00)01538-2)

Bernice, A. (2021). Language and the brain: A twofold study of language production and language comprehension as a separate or integrated set of processes. *Journal of English Language Teaching and Applied Linguistics*, 3(5), 82-90. Retrieved from <https://www.al-kindipublisher.com>

Borghini, A. M. (2020). A future of words: Language and the challenge of abstract concepts. *Journal of Cognition*. Retrieved from <https://www.nih.gov>

Caucheteux, C., & King, J. R. (2022). Brains and algorithms partially converge in natural language processing. *Communications Biology*. Retrieved from <https://www.nature.com>

Darley, F. L., Aronson, A. E., & Brown, J. R. (1975). *Motor speech disorders*. W.B. Saunders.

De Bot, K. (2020). A bilingual production model: Levelt's 'speaking' model adapted. In *The Bilingualism Reader*. Retrieved from <https://www.academia.edu>

Dell, G. S. (1986). A spreading-activation theory of retrieval in sentence production. *Psychological Review*, 93(3), 283-321. <https://doi.org/10.1037/0033-295X.93.3.283>

Duffy, J. R. (2013). *Motor speech disorders: Substrates, differential diagnosis, and management* (3rd ed.). Elsevier Mosby.

Goodglass, H. (1993). *Understanding aphasia*. Academic Press.

## From Thought to Speech: A Critical Review of Levelt's Speech Production Model and Its Applications

- Guenther, F. H. (1995). Speech sound acquisition, coarticulation, and rate effects in a neural network model of speech production. *Psychological Review*, 102(3), 594-621. <https://doi.org/10.1037/0033-295X.102.3.594>
- Guenther, F. H., & Vladusich, T. (2012). A neural theory of speech acquisition and production. *Journal of Neurolinguistics*, 25(5), 408-422. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jneuroling.2009.11.004>
- Guhe, M. (2020). Incremental conceptualization for language production. Retrieved from <https://www.researchgate.net>
- Gumul, E. (2021). Explication and cognitive load in simultaneous interpreting: Product-and process-oriented analysis of trainee interpreters' outputs. *Interpreting*.
- Henderson, A. (2021). Intelligibility and identity: From teaching pronunciation to training for spoken language variation. Retrieved from <https://www.hal.science>
- Kerr, E., Ivanova, B., & Strijkers, K. (2022). Lexical access in speech production. Retrieved from <https://www.osf.io>
- Kerr, E., Ivanova, B., & Strijkers, K. (2023). Lexical access in speech production: Psycho-and neurolinguistic perspectives on the spatiotemporal dynamics. *Language Production*. Retrieved from <https://www.hal.science>
- Kertesz, A. (2007). *Western aphasia battery-revised*. Pearson.
- Kroll, J. F., & Stewart, E. (1994). Category interference in translation and picture naming: Evidence for asymmetric connections between bilingual memory representations. *Journal of Memory and Language*, 33(2), 149-174. <https://doi.org/10.1006/jmla.1994.1008>
- Levelt, W. J. M. (1983). Monitoring and self-repair in speech. *Cognition*, 14(1), 41-104. [https://doi.org/10.1016/0010-0277\(83\)90026-4](https://doi.org/10.1016/0010-0277(83)90026-4)
- Lukačević, K. (2023). From thought to speech: An overview of language production from a psycholinguistic perspective. Retrieved from <https://www.nsk.hr>
- Oppenheim, G. M. (2024). Lexical selection in language production. Retrieved from <https://osf.io>
- Postma, A., & Kolk, H. (1993). The covert repair hypothesis: Prearticulatory

## From Thought to Speech: A Critical Review of Levelt's Speech Production Model and Its Applications

repair processes in normal and stuttered disfluencies. *Journal of Speech and Hearing Research*, 36(3), 472-487. <https://doi.org/10.1044/jshr.3603.472>

Roelofs, A. (1997). The WEAVER model of word-form encoding in speech production. *Cognition*, 64(3), 249-284. [https://doi.org/10.1016/S0010-0277\(97\)00027-9](https://doi.org/10.1016/S0010-0277(97)00027-9)

Schiller, N., & Alario, F. X. (2023). Models of language production and the temporal organization of lexical access. In *Bilingualism through the Prism of Psycholinguistics*, 17, 28-53. Retrieved from <https://hal.science>

Simard, D. (2022). Psycholinguistic processes in L2 oral production. In *The Routledge Handbook of Second Language Acquisition and Speaking* (pp. 24-38). Routledge.

Stemberger, J. P. (1985). The lexicon in a model of language production. *New Approaches to Language Mechanisms: Crosslinguistic Evidence*, 102, 121-148.

Thanh, T. H. (2023). Second language speech production as seen from Levelt's model adaptation. Retrieved from <https://www.lib.yhn.edu.vn>

Wheeldon, L. R., & Konopka, A. (2023). Grammatical encoding for speech production. Retrieved from <https://www.abdn.ac.uk>

Ziegler, W., Ackermann, H., & Kappes, J. (2023). From phonology to articulation: A neurophonetic view. In *The Routledge International Handbook of Psycholinguistic and Cognitive Processes* (pp. 275-288). Routledge.