

Ph.D. Program in Speech-Language- Hearing Sciences

Spring 2021 Colloquium

Wednesday, March 17, 2021

2:45pm-4:00 p.m., [via ZOOM](#)

Sümeyra Tosun

*Believe Me I Was There! Conceptualization of Evidentiality in
Turkish and English Monolinguals and Turkish-English
Bilinguals*

Evidentiality is a linguistic property to indicate the source of knowledge when describing past events. In some languages (e.g., Turkish) evidentiality is marked in the grammar. Thus, speakers of those languages have to add grammatical elements to each verb specifying whether they saw in person the event that they are talking about (i.e., first-hand evidence) or whether they heard about it from somebody else or inferred it using some clues from the environment (second-hand evidence). By contrast, in some other languages (e.g., English), evidentiality is an optionally coded property, left up to the speaker's discretion, and expressed as lexical choices rather than as an obligatory contrast marked in the grammar. Such systemic differences between the two language types (i.e., those with vs. those without evidentials) often influence other cognitive processes of the speakers. In this talk I will present data examining 1) the differences between Turkish and English monolinguals' and Turkish-English bilinguals' source memory accuracy, 2) the relationship between evidentiality and epistemic modality, 3) the effect of evidentiality in discourse and 4) the effect of evidentiality in bilingual language processing.

The Graduate Center
365 Fifth Avenue
New York, NY