

Female fertility affects men's linguistic choices

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The likelihood that a man will match his language to that of a female conversation partner depends on how fertile she is, according to a study published Feb. 8 in the open access journal *PLoS ONE*.

Linguistic alignment between conversation partners is well documented, and is often interpreted to reflect affiliation between the speakers.

This study, however, reports that higher [female fertility](#) levels were associated with lower levels of linguistic matching from male conversation partners. The authors, led by Jacqueline Coyle of at Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University, write that this result could be explained in the context of recent data suggesting that such non-conforming behavior may be a way for men to display their mating fitness.

More information: Coyle JM, Kaschak MP (2012) Female Fertility Affects Men's Linguistic Choices. *PLoS ONE* 7(2): e27971.
[doi:10.1371/journal.pone.0027971](https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pone.0027971)

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