

Tel Aviv University  
School of Philosophy, Linguistics and Science Studies,  
Department of Linguistics

## THURSDAY INTERDISCIPLINARY COLLOQUIUM

Thursday 30/04/2026

16:15-17:45

Webb 103

Nitsan Cohen, Tel Aviv University

### **"Just a Rhyme with a Reason" Phonological Similarity in L2 English in Metal Music: Examining Rhyming Patterns Across Native and Non-Native Speakers**

This research examines the effect of L1 on perceived similarity in L2. Using data from rhymes in Metal music written in English, the research examines the different rhyming patterns of half-rhymes between speakers of Hebrew and German writing music lyrics in a similar L2 - English, and a control group of native English speakers writing in English. By examining a large-scale corpus, I suggest universals in rhyming patterns on one hand, such as similarity among sonorant consonants, alongside language-specific L1 effects such as vowels in Hebrew and final devoicing in German. All of these have a strong effect on the perceived similarity in L2.

Click [here](#) to see the colloquium program.