

1**Lexical encoding of L2 tones [Texto impreso] : the role of L1 stress, pitch accent and intonation / Bettina Braun, Tobias Galts, Baris Kabak**

Este artículo se encuentra disponible en su edición impresa y electrónica. Los datos para su localización y/o acceso electrónico están accesibles a través del enlace al título de la publicación.

References: p. 344-349

Native language prosodic structure is known to modulate the processing of non-native suprasegmental information. It has been shown that native speakers of French, a language without lexical stress, have difficulties storing non-native stress contrasts. We investigated whether the ability to store lexical tone (as in Mandarin Chinese) also depends on the first language (L1) prosodic structure and, if so, how. We tested participants from a stress language (German), a language without word stress (French), a language with restricted lexical tonal contrasts (Japanese), and Mandarin Chinese controls. Furthermore, German has a rich intonational structure, while French and Japanese dispose of fewer utterance-level pitch contrasts. The participants learnt associations between disyllabic non-words (4 tonal contrasts) and objects and indicated whether picture-word pairs matched with what they had learnt (complete match, segmental or tonal mismatch conditions). In the tonal mismatch condition, the Mandarin Chinese controls had the highest sensitivity, followed by the German participants. The French and Japanese participants showed no sensitivity towards these tonal contrasts. Utterance-level prosody is hence better able to predict success in second language (L2) tone learning than word prosody.

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1. Encoding 2. French 3. German 4. Intonation 5. Japanese 6. L2 tone 7. Mandarin Chinese 8. Stress 9. Word learning

2**Morphosyntactic processing in advanced second language (L2) learners [Texto impreso] : An event-related potential investigation of the effects of L1-L2 similarity and structural distance / José Alemán Bañón, Robert Fiorentino, Alison Gabriele**

Este artículo se encuentra disponible en su edición impresa y electrónica. Los datos para su localización y/o acceso electrónico están accesibles a través del enlace al título de la publicación.

References: p. 303-306

Different theoretical accounts of second language (L2) acquisition differ with respect to whether or not advanced learners are predicted to show native-like processing for features not instantiated in the native language (L1). We examined how native speakers of English, a language with number but not gender agreement, process number and gender agreement in Spanish. We compare agreement within a determiner phrase (órgano muy complejo '[DP organ-MASC-SG very complex-MASC-SG]') and across a verb phrase (cuadro es auténtico 'painting-MASC-SG [VP is authentic-MASC-SG]') in order to investigate whether native-like processing is limited to local domains (e.g. within the phrase), in line with Clahsen and Felser (2006). We also examine whether morphological differences in how the L1 and L2 realize a shared feature impact processing by comparing number agreement between nouns and adjectives, where only Spanish instantiates agreement, and between demonstratives and nouns, where English also instantiates agreement. Similar to Spanish natives, advanced learners showed a P600 for both number and gender violations overall, in line with the Full Transfer / Full Access Hypothesis (Schwartz and Sprouse, 1996), which predicts that learners can show native-like processing for novel features. Results also show that learners can establish syntactic dependencies outside of local domains, as suggested by the presence of a P600 for both within and across-phrase violations. Moreover, similar to native speakers, learners were impacted by the structural distance (number of intervening phrases) between the agreeing elements, as suggested by the more positive waveforms for within-phrase than across-phrase agreement overall. These results are consistent with the proposal that learners are sensitive to hierarchical structure.

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1. Agreement 2. Event-related potentials 3. Gender 4. L1 transfer 5. L2 processing 6. Number 7. Spanish 8. Structural distance

3

The role of the native language in the use of the English nongeneric definite article by L2 learners [Texto impreso] : a cross-linguistic comparison / Anna Chrabaszc, Nan Jiang

Este artículo se encuentra disponible en su edición impresa y electrónica. Los datos para su localización y/o acceso electrónico están accesibles a través del enlace al título de la publicación.

References: p. 375-378

The study uses an elicited imitation (EI) task to examine the effect of the native language on the use of the English nongeneric definite article by highly proficient first-language (L1) Spanish and Russian speakers and to test the hierarchy of article difficulty first proposed by Liu and Gleason (2002). Our findings suggest that there is a clear influence of L1 on participants' reproduction of the second-language (L2) definite article in nongeneric contexts, but that various contexts present different levels of difficulty for the two L1 groups. The participants whose L1 is Spanish - a language with an article system - perform at a native-like level of accuracy in the grammatical condition of the test, whereas the participants whose L1 is Russian - a language without articles - demonstrate a tendency to omit definite articles in the same contexts. In the ungrammatical condition, Spanish speakers differ from the native speaker control group in their suppliance of the definite article in conventional and cultural contexts, while Russian participants supply the definite article significantly less than both the Spanish participants and the control group along all article categories. The study offers novel insights into what constitutes article difficulty for L2 learners from different L1s.

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1. Definite article 2. Elicited imitation 3. English 4. Hierarchy of article difficulty 5. Implicit knowledge 6. L1 transfer 7. Nongeneric article 8. Spanish 9. Russian

4

Second language acquisition and schizophrenia [Texto impreso]/ James E. Dugan

Este artículo se encuentra disponible en su edición impresa y electrónica. Los datos para su localización y/o acceso electrónico están accesibles a través del enlace al título de la publicación.

References: p. 319-321

Schizophrenia is a complex mental disorder that results in language-related symptoms at various discourse levels, ranging from semantics (e.g. inventing words and producing nonsensical strands of similar-sounding words) to pragmatics and higher-level functioning (e.g. too little or too much information given to interlocutors, and tangential discourse). Most of the literature concerning people with schizophrenia who acquire a second or foreign language suggests that these linguistic deficits are not as prominent (in some instances, altogether absent) when patients use their non-dominant language, a phenomenon that has been used to support different claims posited by psychologists and linguists about schizophrenia and second language learning alike. This review explores the relationship between second language acquisition and schizophrenia, and discusses how empirical findings regarding multilingual individuals with a diagnosis of schizophrenia inform current notions regarding second language acquisition.

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1. Differential symptoms 2. Schizophrenia 3. Second language acquisition 4. Thought disorder

5

Ultimate attainment of anaphora resolution in L2 Chinese [Texto impreso] / Lucy Xia Zhao

Este artículo se encuentra disponible en su edición impresa y electrónica. Los datos para su localización y/o acceso electrónico están accesibles a través del enlace al título de la publicación.

References: p. 405-407

The current study tests the Interface Hypothesis through forward and backward anaphora in complex sentences with temporal subordinate clauses in highly proficient English-speaking learners' second-language (L2) Chinese. Forward anaphora is involved when the overt pronoun *ta* 'he/she'; or a null element appears in the subject position of the main clause, whereas backward anaphora is involved when it is in the subject position of the temporal clause, because the main clause always follows the temporal clause in Chinese. Specifically, the article tests the syntactic and discourse constraints in the interpretation and representation of *ta* and the null element in complex sentences. *Ta* is constrained by the syntactic cyclic-c-command condition. Thus it is possible for *ta* to refer to the other sentential subject in forward anaphora, but not in backward anaphora in Chinese. Unlike English, Chinese allows a null element in subject positions of finite subordinate and main clauses. It is proposed in the article that the null element in these positions is a \emptyset topic, a syntax-discourse interface category. Results from an acceptability judgement task and a picture judgment task indicate that \emptyset topic at the external interface has been acquired, whereas the cyclic-c-command condition within narrow syntax is fossilized in L2 Chinese.

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1. Functional uninterpretable feature 2. Interfaces 3. Null element 4. Overt pronoun 5. Pure syntax
