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How referential uncertainty is modulated by conjunctions [Recurso electrónico] : ERP evidence from advanced Chinese–English L2 learners and English L1 speakers / Xiaodong Xu ... [et al.]

Este artículo se encuentra disponible en su edición electrónica. Su acceso electrónico es a través del enlace de 'Acceso al documento'.

References: p. 216-221

Conjunctions play a crucial role in the construction of a coherent mental representation by signaling coherence relations between clauses, especially for second language users. By using event-related potentials (ERPs), this study aimed to investigate how different conjunctions (so, and, although, or a full stop) affect the interpretation of a following ambiguous pronoun for both native and non-native speakers, in sentences such as Lily disappointed Nina, so she.... ERP results showed that relative to so, and, and full stopsentences, the pronoun in althoughclauses elicited a larger Nref(sustained negativity) response in both native (L1) readers and second language (L2) readers, irrespective of whether the verb in the first clause biased towards a particular noun phrase (NP) referent. Moreover, larger Nrefsto pronouns were seen in L2 than L1 readers when clauses were connected by so, althoughor a full stop. Additionally, larger Nrefresponses were evoked by pronouns in NP2- than NP1-biased conditions when the clauses were connected by the conjunction soor when sentences contained no overt conjunctions (full stop). These findings indicate that different conjunctions exert different modulating effects on resolving referential uncertainty/ambiguity. Relative to native speakers, non-native speakers are more likely to encounter referential uncertainty when the sentences are conjoined by conjunctions with more complex semantics.

Second language research. -- 2019 (April), v. 35, n. 2, p. 195-224

1. Conjunction 2. ERPs 3. Implicit causality 4. Nref 5. Pronoun resolution 6. Referential uncertainty

2

Individual differences in second language speech learning in classroom settings [Recurso electrónico] : roles of awareness in the longitudinal development of Japanese learners' English /ɹ/ pronunciation / Kazuya Saito

Este artículo se encuentra disponible en su edición electrónica. Su acceso electrónico es a través del enlace de 'Acceso al documento'.

References: p. 169-172

The current study longitudinally examined a crucial individual difference variable – i.e. awareness (operationalized as explicit attention and articulatory knowledge) – in adult second language (L2) speech learning in the context of 40 Japanese learners' English /ɹ/ pronunciation development in an EFL classroom. The participants' speech, elicited from word reading, sentence reading and timed picture description tasks at the beginning and end of one academic semester, were analysed in terms of three acoustic dimensions of English /ɹ/: third formant (F3), second formant (F2) and duration. Whereas the participants showed gains in the relatively easy aspect of the English /ɹ/ acquisition (F2 reduction for tongue retraction) as a function of increased L2 input, their explicit awareness of accurate English /ɹ/ pronunciation played a significant role in the acquisition of the relatively difficult dimension (lengthening phonemic duration). The awareness-acquisition link was not found, however, for the most difficult dimension (F3 reduction for labial, alveolar and pharyngeal constrictors) at least within the timeframe of the Project.

Second language research. -- 2019 (April), v. 35, n. 2, p. 149-172

1. Acoustic phonetics 2. Awareness 3. Foreign language classroom 4. Individual differences 5. Pronunciation 6. Second language speech

3

Preserved morphological processing in heritage speakers [Recurso electrónico] : a masked priming study on Turkish / Gunnar Jacob ... [et al.]

Este artículo se encuentra disponible en su edición electrónica. Su acceso electrónico es a través del enlace de 'Acceso al documento'.

References: p. 191-194

In a masked morphological priming experiment, we compared the processing of derived and inflected morphologically complex Turkish words in heritage speakers of Turkish living in Berlin and in native speakers of Turkish raised and living in Turkey. The results show significant derivational and inflectional priming effects of a similar magnitude in the heritage group and the control group. For both participant groups, semantic and orthographic control conditions indicate that these priming effects are genuinely morphological in nature, and cannot be due to semantic or orthographic similarity between prime and target. These results suggest that morphological processing in heritage speakers is based on the same fundamental processing mechanisms as in prototypical native speakers. We conclude that heritage speakers, despite the fact that they have acquired the language in a particular setting and were exposed to a relatively limited amount of input, can nevertheless develop native-like processing mechanisms for complex words.

Second language research. -- 2019 (April), v. 35, n. 2, p. 173-194

1. Derivation 2. Heritage speakers 3. Inflection 4. Morphological processing 5. Turkish

4

Reanalysing object gaps during non-native sentence processing [Recurso electrónico] :evidence from ERPs / Anna Jessen, Claudia Felser

Este artículo se encuentra disponible en su edición electrónica. Su acceso electrónico es a través del enlace de 'Acceso al documento'.

References: p. 298-299

The present study used event related potentials (ERPs) to investigate how native (L1) German-speaking second-language (L2) learners of English process sentences containing filler-gap dependencies such as Bill liked the house (women) that Bob built some ornaments for ___ at his workplace. Using an experimental design which allowed us to dissociate filler integration from reanalysis effects, we found that fillers which were implausible as direct objects of the embedded verb (e.g. built the women) elicited similar brain responses (an N400) in L1 and L2 speakers when the verb was encountered. This confirms findings from behavioral and eye-movement studies indicating that both L1 and L2 speakers immediately try to integrate a filler with a potential lexical licenser. L1/L2 differences were observed when subsequent sentence material signaled that the direct-object analysis was in fact incorrect, however. We found reanalysis effects, in the shape of a P600 for sentences containing fillers that were plausible direct objects only for L2 speakers, but not for the L1 group. This supports previous findings suggesting that L2 comprehenders recover from an initially plausible first analysis less easily than L1.

Second language research. -- 2019 (April), v. 35, n. 2, p. 285-300

1. English 2. ERPs 3. Filler-gap dependency 4. L2 processing 5. Reanalysis

5

Reference tracking in early stages of different modality L2 acquisition [Recurso electrónico] : limited over-explicitness in novice ASL signers' referring expressions / Anne Therese Frederiksen, Rachel I. Mayberry

Este artículo se encuentra disponible en su edición electrónica. Su acceso electrónico es a través del enlace de 'Acceso al documento'.

References: p. 277-283

Previous research on reference tracking has revealed a tendency towards over-explicitness in second language (L2) learners. Only limited evidence exists that this trend extends to situations where the learner's first and second languages do not share a sensory-motor modality. Using a story-telling paradigm, this study examined how hearing novice L2 learners accomplish reference tracking in American Sign Language (ASL), and whether they transfer strategies from gesture. Our results revealed limited evidence of over-explicitness. Instead there was an overall similarity in the L2 learners' reference tracking to that of a native signer control group, even in the use of lexical nominals, pronouns and zero anaphora – areas where research on spoken L2 reference tracking predicts differences. Our data also revealed, however, that L2 learners have problems with the referential value of ASL classifiers, and with target-like use of zero anaphora from different verb types, as well as spatial modification. This suggests that over-explicitness occurs in the early stages of different modality L2 acquisition to a limited extent. We found no evidence of gestural transfer. Finally, we found that L2 learners reintroduce more than native signers, which could indicate that they, unlike native signers are not yet capable of utilizing the affordances of the visual modality to reference multiple entities simultaneously.

Second language research. -- 2019 (April), v. 35, n. 2, p. 253-283

1. American Sign Language 2. Classifiers 3. Gesture 4. M2–L2 learning 5. Null subjects 6. Over-explicit reference 7. Reference 8. Referent tracking

6

Selective vulnerability in very advanced L2 grammars [Recurso electrónico] : evidence from VPE constraints / Kholoud A Al-Thubaiti

Este artículo se encuentra disponible en su edición electrónica. Su acceso electrónico es a través del enlace de 'Acceso al documento'.

References: p. 249-250

This study examines whether the second language acquisition (L2A) of syntactic properties at the interfaces is problematic for L2 learners. English verb phrase ellipsis (VPE) was tested as an interface property which involves feature interpretability. Two subtle contrasts of VPE at different grammar-internal interfaces were examined: (a) copula beand lexical verb ellipsis at the syntax–lexicon interface (*John is here, and Mary will too vs. John slept, and Mary will too), and (b) progressive beand perfective havestranding at the syntax–semantics interface (*John slept, and Mary was too vs. Peter saw your parents last week, but he hasn't since). Unlike (a), the contrast in (b) requires identifying (un) interpretable features on -ingand -ento recover the semantics of the elided material. Since Saudi Arabic does not license VPE, (very-)advanced English L2 speakers whose first language (L1) is Saudi Arabic were tested. The results from a bimodal timed acceptability judgment task showed they were more target-like on the contrast at the syntax–lexicon interface than they were on the syntax–semantics interface. They particularly deviated from target-like judgments on havestranding which requires recognizing the perfective uninterpretable feature on -en. These results suggest selective vulnerability at grammar-internal interfaces whenever uninterpretable features are involved.

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1. Feature interpretability 2. Selective vulnerability 3. Syntax–lexicon 4. Syntax–semantics 5. Verb phrase ellipsis
