

Clitic-doubled Left Dislocation in L2 Spanish: Speeded Production Data

Jose Sequeros-Valle (University of Illinois at Chicago)

Bradley Hoot (DePaul University)

Jennifer Cabrelli Amaro (University of Illinois at Chicago)

The main goal of this project is to determine whether or not adult second language learners (L2ers) are able to perform in a native-like manner on the discursive restrictions of Spanish clitic-doubled left dislocation (CLLD) on a speeded production task. Several studies have found native-like L2 results for CLLD and similar structures in other languages (Donaldson, 2011, 2012; Ivanov, 2009, 2012; Slabakova, Kempchinsky, & Rothman, 2012). However, to account for cases of L2 divergence, the Interface Hypothesis (IH) (Sorace, 2011) states that those studies used methodologies that do not capture language processing, the source of residual optionality according to the IH. Concurrently, the distinction between Gradient Competence vs. Categorical Competence (GCCC) (Slabakova, Rothman and Kempchinsky, 2011, based on Duffield, 2003, 2005) suggests that L2 divergence is due to the categorical use of a single construction by L2ers, while native speakers are able to perform a probabilistic analysis among many constructions. Unlike previous research in CLLD in L2 Spanish, participants in this study are presented with a speeded production task (Leal, Destruel, & Hoot, submitted), designed with the goal of observing the impact of L2 processing in the results. Preliminary results show that nonnative participants are sensitive to discourse in their use of CLLD, while they overextend CLLD quasi-categorically beyond its discursive restrictions (as predicted by the GCCC). This results contrast to those found in an AJT study by Slabakova et al. (2012), which may be due to L2 processing limitations given the the timed nature of the task, as predicted by the IH.