

Residual V2 in Online L2 Production at the Syntax-Discourse Interface of Near-Native Dutch Learners of English

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Recent research on the L2 end state has focused on so-called interfaces between syntax and other cognitive domains like pragmatics (Pacheco and Flynn 2006), discourse (Hopp 2009) and morphology (Hopp 2010). The *Interface Hypothesis* (Sorace and Filiaci 2006) postulates that near-native speakers of an L2 are capable of attaining native-like grammatical representations in narrow L2 syntax, but still display unsystematic L1 effects in the form of optionality at the interfaces mentioned. In order to investigate this claim I propose to look at V2 optionality in online L2 production of Dutch near-native learners of English. In Dutch, preposed non-subject constituents are immediately followed by verbs: *Voor sommige vrouwen is feminisme nog steeds een vies woord*, whereas in English this is not the case: *For some women is feminism still a dirty word. Adopting a cross-linguistic priming experimental set-up using material from Robertson and Sorace's (1999) corpus study should provide more insight into online processing of near-native L2ers. The fundamental questions raised here are: i) can grammatical L1 Dutch structures prime ungrammatical or dispreferred L2 English structures, and if so ii) could this be taken as evidence for a shared syntactic module for L1 and L2 at the syntax-discourse interface?

References

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