

The use of *and so on* by Japanese learners of English in a learner corpus

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This study investigates forms and functions of *and so on*, one of the forms of general extenders (*or something, and stuff like that*), spoken by Japanese learners of English (JLEs) at different speaking proficiency levels in the National Institute of Information and Communications Technology Japanese Learner English Corpus (NICT JLE Corpus, Izumi et al. 2004).

General extenders are one of the forms of English vague language (EVL). It has been found that EVL is used extensively in spoken and written English among native English speakers, especially in spoken English (Carter and McCarthy 2006). The necessity for learners of English to be aware of it has been discussed (Channell 1994, Cutting 2000). I believe that, before teaching it to JLEs, the description of their actual use of EVL could inform second or foreign language teaching.

This corpus-based study takes both quantitative and qualitative approaches. The quantitative analysis finds that the JLEs at the lower level in the corpus used *and so on* more frequently than those at the intermediate and higher levels in the corpus. The qualitative analysis finds that the JLEs at the lower level used *and so on* in more ways than those at the intermediate or higher levels.

References

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