

EUROSLA22

22nd Annual Conference of the European
Second Language Association

Expanding discipline boundaries

Adam Mickiewicz University,
Poznań, Poland
5-8 September 2012

BOOK OF ABSTRACTS

<http://ifa.amu.edu.pl/eurosla22/>

My data suggests recovery from L1-transfer effects with rising proficiency. While beginner L2ers use ungrammatical bare nouns, hardly produce generic definite plurals and show a non-generic preference in the interpretation of definite plurals, advanced L2ers perform significantly more target-like. Thus, the mapping of semantic universals led to initial L1 effects which were overcome by feature reassembly.

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Linguistic landscape and the use, perceptions and preferences of second language speakers

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The study of the linguistic landscape, in the sense of all written information in public space, has gradually gained worldwide interest, as is demonstrated in numerous publications (Gorter et al, 2012; Shohamy & Gorter, 2009; Shohamy et al., 2010).

People continuously process the visual information from language signs in the public space. The languages displayed on signs can be an additional source of input in second language acquisition (Cenoz & Gorter, 2008). The linguistic landscape can also influence the perception of languages and affect the use of their first or second language.

In our study we explore a new direction for researching the linguistic landscape.

Our focus is on the relationships between the languages as displayed on signs, the perceptions of languages and the actual language use of bilingual speakers. We have set up an experiment in which we investigate the effects of the visibility and salience of the languages on commercial and public signs.

The subjects were 90 students in the Department of English studies of the University of the Basque Country. These students have Basque or Spanish as a first or second language and a reasonable command of English. All students took part in an experiment where they reacted to stimuli of signs taken from the linguistic landscape which aimed to measure their linguistic preferences and language use. They also completed a questionnaire on language acquisition, proficiency and use.

Our results suggest that the linguistic landscape has an influence on the use of the second language of these bilingual Basque-Spanish speakers. We found a general preference for multilingual signs as well as a favourable attitude towards the use of both Basque and Spanish in written communication.

We conclude our paper with a discussion about further investigations of the linguistic landscape along these lines.

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How can physics help us measure fluency in Second Language?

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Fluency is a common used indicator of foreign language proficiency. There are however many definitions of this term and many ways of measuring it. Fluency is often understood as a smooth and rapid text production. In order to measure it a variety of means has been used, like the number of words, clauses or T-units, the number of words