A descriptive account of the developmental trajectory of L2 learners’ use of hesitation phenomena

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Introduction

Well, in my own life I'd break it up in stages, when I had a difficult youth. Uh my father wasn't in the house, I've written about this, you know there were times where I've experimented with drugs, and I drank, in my teenage years, what I trace this to is a certain selfishness on my part, I was so obsessed with me, and you know the reasons that I might be dissatisfied, that I couldn't focus on other people. And I think the process for me of growing up was to recognize that it's not about me, it's about ...

It's about absolutely, but look, you know, the when I find myself taking the wrong step, I think a lot of the times it's because I'm trying to protect myself, instead of trying to do God's work. And and and so that I think is my own failure
Overview

- Hesitation phenomena
  - Overview
  - HP in L2 speech
- Crosslinguistic Corpus of Hesitation Phenomena
  - Description
  - Results
- HP Developmental Trajectory
- Accessing the CCHP
Overview of types of HP

- **Long investigative history**

- **Types**
  - Silent pauses (SP): longer than 0.3-1.0 sec
  - Filled pauses (FP): *uh/um* in English, *e-to/ano-* in Japanese
  - Lengthenings: prolongation of one or more syllables
  - Repeats/restarts: repetition of a sequence of words
  - False starts: beginning of an utterance that is abandoned
  - Self-corrections: a sequence of words that repairs an immediately preceding sequence
HP in L2 production

  - SP duration and rate: higher proficiency → shorter and fewer silent pauses
  - FP rate: higher proficiency → fewer filled pauses
  - Differences between read and spontaneous speech

- Related
  - Speech rate: higher proficiency → faster rate
HP in L2 production

- As a whole, work has been quite comprehensive.
- However, individual works are limited in that many do not take individual variation into account (cf., de Leeuw 2007).
- Gradually, more studies are including L1 observations.
  - Derwing et al (2009) and Cox and Baker-Smemoe (2012) observed that both speech rate and pause rate in L1 and L2 production are correlated.
- The current research is designed to contribute to greater understanding of the influence of L1 hesitation on L2 hesitation.
Research Questions

- What is the relationship between hesitation patterns in L1 and L2 speech?
- What is the developmental trajectory of HP use in L2?
Crosslinguistic Corpus of Hesitation Phenomena (CCHP)

- Participants: L2 learners of varying proficiency levels
- Elicitation tasks
  - Spontaneous speech: picture description, topic narrative
  - Reading aloud
  - Performed in both L1 and L2
- Demographic information: age, gender, L2 proficiency (standardized test scores, experience abroad, self-assessment)
- Annotation
  - Transcripts, HP, word & pause intervals
  - Two annotators, one checker
CCHP Results: Basic Statistics

- Participants: 25 Japanese L1, English L2 speakers
- Full corpus
  - 42,972 words
  - 8 hrs, 9 min
- Spontaneous speech
  - 27,416 words
  - 6 hrs, 12 min
- Read speech
  - 15,556 words
  - 1 hr, 57 min
- 2,404 filled pauses
- 1,080 self-corrections
- 309 repeats
- ?? silent pauses
- ?? false starts
- ?? lengthenings
CCHP Results: Analysis

- Used spontaneous speech data only.
- Extracted counts for speech rate, filled pauses, repeats, and self-corrections.
- Performed repeated measures ANOVA
  - (between) L2 Proficiency as numerical variable, estimated from test scores, experience abroad, self-assessment
  - (within) Language as categorical variable: Japanese, English
- Used $\alpha = 0.05$ for significance testing (marked with ★).
CCHP Results: Speech Rate

Consistent with Derwing et al (2009) and Cox and Baker-Smemoe (2012)
CCHP Results: Filled Pauses

Filled Pause Rate (per min)

Filled Pause Rate (per word)

Interaction

L2 Competence
CCHP Results: Repeats

Repeats are uncommon in Japanese (Fox et al 1996)
CCHP Results: Self-corrections

Self-correction Rate (per min)

- English
- Japanese

Self-correction Rate (per word)

- English
- Japanese

L2 Competence

Repair Rate (per min)

Repair Rate (per 100 words)
CCHP Results: Other Repair Measures

Mean Num Repair Attempts

Mean Num Editing Terms

L2 Competence
Summary

- Recent studies of L2 speech performance are taking L1 speech performance more and more into account.
- The Crosslinguistic Corpus of Hesitation Phenomena allows us to account for L1 factors in the study of L2 hesitation patterns.
- Results show that learners' use of filled pauses change with increased proficiency, independent of L1 speech factors.
- Results show that speakers at all proficiency levels use more repeats.
- Results suggest that other aspects of L2 hesitation use correlate with that of L1.
CCHP Public Corpus

- Assembling a larger (N=30), public version of the Crosslinguistic Corpus of Hesitation Phenomena is ongoing.
- When complete, audio files and annotated transcripts will be available for free download.
- Some files are already available for download: http://www.filledpause.com/chp/cchp
References


