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主な研究業績

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キーワード

ESP, Corpus Linguistics, Police English, Word Recognition, Reading Comprehension

研究テーマ Research theme

ESP Corpus of Police English

概要 Overview

Over the past few years, my research has focused on the effects of word recognition training on L2 reading comprehension. This research was framed around the Verbal Efficiency theory by Perfetti (1985). It posits that lower-level cognitive processes in L2 reading are easily automatizable, with by doing this, readers can redirect their cognitive focus to higher level processes required for faster and accurate reading comprehension. A one-year longitudinal quasi-experimental study with 220 participants was conducted, and preliminary results indicate that not all components of word recognition (orthographic, semantic, and phonological awareness) were significant contributors to change in reading comprehension. I analyzed the data gathered using of five instruments that are intended to measure the components of word recognition (orthographic, phonological, and semantic knowledge). They include a lexical decisions test, an antonym pairs test, a pronunciation test, a reading rate test, and a reading comprehension test. These instruments were adapted from their original designs to be functional in a longitudinal study. The study hypothesized that students who receive word recognition training will achieve greater gains in reading comprehension ability than those who receive traditional intensive reading training. Five research question were put forth in the study. Research question one and two were analyzed using ANOVAs and ANCOVAs, the third question was analyzed using Rasch analysis and ANCOVAs, and the final question was qualitative in nature and involved the analysis of participant interviews and survey results. The results from this study have now been analyzed, and the final report will contribute to the field of L2 reading, cognitive processing, and L2 reading pedagogy. Initial findings indicate a statistically significant improvement in phonological knowledge, leading to better reading comprehension.

My current research project has taken me in a new direction. It is within the applied linguistics field of English for Specific Purposes (ESP) and corpus linguistics. The research project addresses the L2 English learning needs of the Kyoto Police force. The purpose of this research is to identify English L2 language patterns, specific vocabulary, and lexical patterns that are unique to the police force. It will be an ongoing process and include the translation of various written material from the Kyoto Police in order to create a parallel corpus which can then be used to create more appropriate learning materials that focus on the specific needs of the Kyoto Police. Currently, a corpus of translated texts from Japanese to English have representing Traffic Safety and Community Communication have been used to create a small corpus of about 18,000 words. Even from this small corpus, specific word usage, collocations and various n-grams have been identified. It is hoped that once a more robust corpus of police English (50,000 to 100,000 words) is created, more informative analyses will prove insightful. From this point, future research includes a comparison study of English from other prefectures in Japan. This research project adds to the existing field of knowledge in ESP, corpus linguistics, and L2 pedagogy. In addition, it will hopefully have a significant impact on the effectiveness and efficiency of L2 English taught to the Kyoto Police force.