

Evidence of cognitive representations in diassystemic grammar: the case of [(Spec) N] in the multilingual construction of English-speaking BP learners

Non-native constructs instantiating the nominal (dia)construction [(Spec) N] emerging in written L2 Brazilian Portuguese (BP) are analyzed in the research. In 25 texts of English-speaking apprentices of BP, 312 occurrences that instantiate [(Spec) N] were identified. The analyses showed occurrences compatible with the constructional patterns of BP, some of which presenting deviations regarding the representation of the specifier slot (Spec). The study adheres to the postulates of Diassystemic Construction Grammar (HÖDER, 2012; HÖDER, 2020) and its main hypothesis is that both convergent and divergent written representations reflect the activation of domain general cognitive processes that sometimes enable the emergence of a diassystematic link or the maintenance of specific aspects of the L1 present at a more underlying level which is reflected in L2 writing overgeneralizations.