

Effects on entrenchment of time constructions in German and Japanese learners of Swedish as a foreign language

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In this talk, we will present an experimental study, based on a phrasal decision task, in which we compare data (response time and accuracy) from Japanese speaking learners of Swedish as a foreign language with data from German speaking learners (Olofsson & Prentice 2020). Our aim is to investigate the issue of the influence of typologically close and distant L1s, as well as the effects of other factors, related to participants' linguistic background and learning context, on the entrenchment of Swedish time constructions in FL learning (cf Schmid 2017). The investigated constructions are exemplified in (1a–b).

- (1) a. Två år senare 'two years later'
b. Tre öl senare 'three beers later'

Preliminary results indicate that, compared to the German participants, Japanese participants somewhat slower when processing productive uses of the time constructions (as in 1b). The Japanese learners' responses are also less accurate. One explanation may be a greater L1 influence in the German participants, resulting in generalisations over congruent constructions, i.e. dia-constructions (Höder, Prentice & Tingsell), being entrenched in their mental constructicon. Results from a comparison of Swedish and German corpus data (Olofsson & Prentice, *forthc.*) show no clear indication of cross-linguistic differences in usage, but some rather interesting similarities, which we will discuss in relation to the experimental findings.

References

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