Introduction to Special Issue

Variation in syntactic complexity: Introduction
Folkert Kuiken, Ineke Veder, Alex Hosen, and Bastien De Clercq

Special Issue Articles

Measuring linguistic complexity in long-term L2 speakers of English and L1 attenders of German
Cornelia Lahmann, Rasmus Steinkraus and Monika S. Schmid

Syntactic complexity across proficiency and languages: L2 and L1 writing in Dutch, Italian, and Spanish
Folkert Kuiken and Ineke Veder

On cross-linguistic variation and measures of linguistic complexity in learner texts: Italian, French and English
Petra Bernardini and Jonas Granfeldt

Finding variation: assessing the development of syntactic complexity in ESL Speech
Mary Lou Vercellotti

Proficiency-related variation in syntactic complexity: A study of English L1 and L2 oral descriptive discourse
Craig Lambert and Sachiko Nakamura
INTRODUCTION TO SPECIAL ISSUE

Variation in syntactic complexity: Introduction

Folkert Kuiken1 ☑ | Ineke Vedder1 ☑ | Alex Housen2 ☑ | Bastien De Clercq2 ☑

1University of Amsterdam, VB, Amsterdam, The Netherlands
2Belgium

Correspondence
Folkert Kuiken, University of Amsterdam, Amsterdam Center for Language and Communication, Spuistraat 134, 1012 VB
Amsterdam, The Netherlands.
Email: folkert@uva.nl

This special issue, focusing on different types of variation in syntactic complexity, offers a critical discussion of the role of variation in syntactic complexity research in SLA. Special attention is paid to inter-learner variation (i.e., individual developmental trajectories of acquiring syntactic complexity) and to interactions with related constructs, for instance between syntax and morphology, and between syntactic and lexical complexity. The overarching focus of the different contributions is to investigate the possible variation of (syntactic) complexity according to various external factors, such as levels of linguistic proficiency (developmental variation), variation in task modality (i.e., oral, written), task types and genres, and variation in source and target languages (cross-linguistic variation).

KEYWORDS

cross-linguistic variation, developmental variation, inter-learner variation, syntactic complexity

Questo numero tematico, incentrato sui diversi tipi di variazione nell’acquisizione della complessità sintattica, offre una discussione critica del ruolo della variazione della complessità sintattica nelle ricerche SLA. Particolare attenzione è rivolta alla variazione individuale (le traiettorie di sviluppo dei singoli apprendenti) e all’interazione tra complessità sintattica e contesti costruiti ad essa correlati: ad esempio, l’interazione tra sintassi e morfologia, e tra