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Sun, Ay-wei

In this study, the acquisition of deictic demonstratives on learning Japanese as a second (JSL) and as a foreign language (JFL) Taiwanese learners was analyzed to investigate the influence of learning environment on deictic demonstratives. The results of this study were the following: the scores of JSL were significantly higher than that of JFL. Additionally, there were more errors of “ko” and “so” in JFL than in JSL, which might be explain by the negative transfer from the subjects’ mother tongue and the influence of instruction. Moreover, when the influence of Japanese proficiency on deictic demonstrative acquisition according to learning environment was discussed, JSL showed high scores even though the subjects’ level of Japanese proficiency was low, while there were still errors in JFL. Thus, it was suggested that studying in the target language zone might promote the acquisition of deictic demonstratives.

Keywords: demonstratives, deictic demonstratives, learning environment, Japanese proficiency, Taiwanese learners