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The effect of the L1 on the acquisition of noun-modifying structures
– The overuse of “no” as ‘transfer in the developmental process’–

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The hypothesis that the overuse of the Japanese case marker ‘no’ by native Chinese speakers (i.e. **Akai no hon*) is surely caused by the interference of their first language is still widely accepted. However, those errors have repeatedly been observed in the speech data of other non-native Japanese speakers and also in the process of first language acquisition. This paper first demonstrates that the overuse of ‘no’ does not only occur from such interference errors, but are also a common developmental error. Secondly, I introduce the idea of ‘transfer in the developmental process’ as the role of the learner’s first language in second language acquisition. Finally, I conclude that a learner’s first language does not necessarily influence the developmental sequence, but it does influence the rate of second language acquisition.

Key-words: overuse of case marker ‘no’, avoidance of ‘no’, contrastive analysis hypothesis, acquisition order, transfer in developmental process