English has Infixing?

Recursion

ARE L2 GRAMMARS
CONstrained by UNIVERSALS?

Universals

• Prosodic Morphology
• Prosodic Circumscription
• No Crossing of Association Lines

The L1s

• English: trochaic feet for stress
• Mandarin: trochaic foot structure for stress and tone sandhi
• Spanish: trochaic foot structure for stress
• Japanese: trochaic foot structure for loan words’ pitch accent
• French: no feet; no word stress

Methodology

Auditory and orthographic lexical decision task (LDT)

Which of the following forms do you prefer:
1. fan-fucking-tastic
2. fantas-fucking-tic

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>L1</th>
<th>Error</th>
<th>English Intermediate</th>
<th>English Advanced</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Spanish</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mandarin</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Japanese</td>
<td>46</td>
<td>39</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>French</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>English</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Results

L2 GRAMMARS ARE
CONstrained by UNIVERSALS

"L2 learners are able to acquire abstract recursive structures based on infrequent input - thus demonstrating that their grammars are hierarchical and constrained by Universal Grammar…”

*fantas-fucking-tic

Bayesian Analyses

Conclusions

1. Interlanguage grammars have hierarchical structure; they are not ‘shallow.’
2. The accuracy of responses is based on structures which are infrequent and not taught which suggest the learners were consulting representations which included recursive metrical feet.
3. Our differential difficulty hypothesis was not supported.
4. L2 learners retain access to universal properties of generative word formation processes such as prosodic morphology.

Mental Lexicon 2022 • Niagara on the Lake
johnarch@uvic.ca