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شبكة المعلومات الجامعية التوثيق الالكتروني والميكروفيلم



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لم ترد بالأصل



HOSSAM MAGHRABY

Menofiya University
Faculty of Arts

B18919



*Testing Parameter Setting In
Second Language Acquisition
(A study of the Pro-Drop Parameter in
Cairene Colloquial Arabic)*

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by
Seham Osama Abed El-Aziz

Supervised By

Dr. Amal Ibrahim EL-Kary
Professor of linguistics
Head of the English Department
Faculty of Arts
Ain- Shams University

Amal Kary

Dr. Hosny Mustafa El-Daly
Assistant Professor of linguistics
English Department
Faculty of Arts
Menofiya University

*To God Almighty
Who gave me
such loving parents*

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Abstract

The broad area of the present study is SLA using the principles and parameters model of the UG theory. The study investigates the acquisition of the Pro-Drop (PD) parameter in Cairene colloquial Arabic (CCA) as a second language. The aim of the study is to look at the possible effect of the PD parameter value of L1 on the acquisition of the same parameter in L2. If the effect is found, its manifestations in the subjects' interlanguage will be analyzed. The possible effect of some other factors such as level of proficiency, gender, and length of residence on the acquisition of CCA as a second language is also examined. The literature review traces the development of the field of SLA and its relationship with the development of linguistic theories especially the theory of UG and introduces the main concepts of the P&P model and its impact on SLA research followed by SLA research studies on UG (P&P).

The subjects are 45 learners of CCA as a second language from four language groups. The instrument used is a grammaticality judgment test. The results reveal that L2 learners do not start by a neutral parameter setting and that L1 PD parameter provide the initial value until the proper L2 setting is attained and that learning L2 with a parameter setting similar to that of the L1 is easier than learning L2 with a different parameter setting. The results also show that properties that are supposed to

be syntactically clustering with the PD parameter do not show this clustering effect in the process of L2 acquisition. The performance of the subjects in the PD test tallies directly with the subjects' level of proficiency and no relationship could be detected between subjects' level of proficiency and their length of residence. The performance of the female subjects in the present study is generally better than that of the male subjects .

LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

AGR	Agreement
CCA	Cairene colloquial Arabic
ECA	Egyptian Colloquial Arabic
ESL	English as a second language
GB	Government and binding
IL	Interlanguage
INFL	Inflection
NP	Noun phrase
PD	Pro- drop
P&P	Principles and parameters
L1	First (native) language
L2	Second language
SLA	Second language acquisition
<i>t</i>	Computed value of a <i>t</i> test
TOEFL	Test of English as a foreign language
SAMS	Sadat Academy for Management Sciences
SOV	Subject object verb
SVO	Subject verb object

Key to Transcription of Arabic Phonemes

Consonants

	Labial	Labio-dental	Dental-alveolar	emphatic alveolar	Palatal	Velar	Uvular	Pharyngeal	laryngeal
stop	b		t d	t̤ d̤		k g	q		ʕ
fricative		f	s z	ʃ ž	ʃ	x ð		ħ h	h
trill			r						
lateral			l						
nasal	m		n						
Semi vowels	w				y				

Vowels

Short vowels	examples
a	/çax/ "brother"
ā	/tazkārā/ "a ticket"
e	/bent/ "girl"
i	/çil/ "the"
u	/çuxt/ "sister"
o	/mosta[fa/ "hospital"

Long vowels	examples
ā:	/sigara:/ "a cigarette"
i:	/tawi:l/ "tall"
e:	/çitne:n/ "two"
u:	/yku:n/ "is"
o:	/dukto:r/ "a doctor"

TABLE OF CONTENTS

CONTENTS	page
Chapter One : Introduction	1-21
1.1 The problem and its setting	1
1.2 Statement of the problem.....	4
1.3 The research questions.....	5
1.4 Significance of the study.....	5
1.5 Definitions of terms.....	7
1.6 Cairene Colloquial Arabic.....	11
1.6.1 The hierarchical structure of Cairene Colloquial Arabic	12
Chapter Two :Literature Review	23-66
2.1 Introduction.....	23
2.2 L2 acquisition: Problems and traditional answers.....	23
2.2.1 Contrastive analysis.....	24
2.2.2 Creative construction.....	26
2.2.3 Error analysis and Interlanguage.....	28
2.3 The theory of Universal Grammar.....	31
2.3.1 Criteria of adequacy.....	32
2.3.2 From TGG to GB.....	34
2.3.3 UG principles and parameters.....	39
2.4 UG and second language acquisition.....	47
2.4.1 Research on UG principles.....	49
2.4.2 Research on UG parameters.....	53
2.4.3 Research on the Pro-drop parameter.....	57
Chapter Three : Research Methodology	68-84
3.1 Introduction:.....	68
3.2 The tests.....	68
3.2.1 The Placement Test.....	70
3.2.2 Designing and judging the test.....	70
3.2.3 Administering and scoring the test.....	71
3.2.4 The PD parameter test.....	72
3.2.5 Designing and judging the test.....	73
3.2.6 Administering and scoring the test.....	74
3.2.7 The Listening test.....	74
3.3 The subjects.....	76
3.3.1 Native speakers of CCA.....	77
3.3.2 Native speakers of pro-drop languages (Spanish- Chinese).....	78