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Influence of L1 on the use of phrasal verbs by Malaysian learners of English

Phrasal verb is one of the linguistics features which presents great difficulty to many language learners (Dagut and Laufer 1985; Hulstijn and Marchena 1989; Laufer and Eliasson 1993; Granger 1998; Liao and Fukuya 2004, Anna and Schmitt 2007). Various reasons have been highlighted to the problems faced by learners in understanding and using this language element including the nature of phrasal verb itself as well as cross linguistic factors. In this presentation, I will highlight some preliminary findings from my ongoing research into the use of phrasal verbs amongst Malaysian learners of English. Specifically, I will present an analysis of phrasal verbs with particle *up* and *down*, comparing usage in a native speaker corpus (the Bank of English) and EMAS, a corpus of English produced by Malaysian learners. My analysis so far has revealed that cross linguistic aspect, in particular learners' L1 (Malay) is one of the main reasons which influences learners' understanding and use of these phrasal verbs. Finally, I will conclude the presentation by discussing some pedagogical implications with respect to phrasal verbs particularly in Malaysian classrooms.

References

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