

Abs-45

Tomio Uchida (Meisei University)

Investigating the formulaic use of *Of*-phrases by non-advanced learners: Findings from a Japanese EFL learner corpus

Learners of English with Japanese as a mother tongue tend to underuse prepositions regardless of their length of learning experience, and it is particularly true of the preposition *of* as shown by analyses of the JEFLL Corpus, a collection of writings by 10,000 Japanese high school students, and the ICLE. This study has focused upon expressions incorporating *of*-phrases and investigated the use of those by Japanese non-advanced learners in the JEFLL Corpus in detail. The items and frequencies of such sequences as prepositional phrases or phrasal verbs in the corpus and those in bilingual learner dictionaries were compared. Results showed that the variation both in lexical and collocation items was much less in learner English. It implies that underuse of the lexical item *of* by Japanese non-advanced learners results from a lack of competence in constructing semantic and/or structural units with *of* rather than lexical knowledge of individual words.

Reference

Tono, Y. (2007). *Nihonjin chuukousei ichimannin no eigo koopasu JEFLL Corpus*. Tokyo: Shogakukan.