Between Grammar & Pragmatics: Article Use in L2 English

Dr. Monika Ekiert
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Dr. Ekiert will talk about a study undertaken to investigate if and how L1 speakers of article-lacking languages express definiteness and its meanings when they use articles in L2 English, drawing on insights (e.g., Han & Larsen-Freeman, 2005; VanPatten et al., 2004) that grammatical meaning can be a source of difficulty in forming target-like form-meaning connections. Dr. Ekiert will also discuss the implications of these findings, which lend support to the view that full acquisition of grammatical elements, such as English articles, hinges on conceptual restructuring from the L1 to the L2.

Dr. Ekiert is an Assistant Professor of Education and Language Acquisition at LaGuardia Community College, CUNY. She obtained her MA in TESOL, as well as EdM and EdD in applied linguistics at Teachers College, Columbia University, where she taught graduate courses in the MA TESOL and Applied Linguistics programs. Her research interests include the acquisition of L2 meaning by adult L2 learners, the acquisition of definiteness, form–meaning connections in second language learning, crosslinguistic influence in second language acquisition, and conceptual transfer.

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