UF Graduate Linguistics Society Thursday Seminars presents

Dr. Stefanie Wulff, UF
What corpus-linguistics can contribute to second language acquisition research

Venue: TBA
10/12/2017 at 4:05 pm

Abstract

There is wide agreement in the second language acquisition research community across all contemporary theoretical foci that second language learning is an inherently complex process: a multitude of language-internal and -external factors jointly characterize the initial state, the developmental route, the speed of advancement, and the ultimate attainment of second language learning, and they do so to varying extents at different stages of proficiency. In recognition of this complexity, and given the advantage of rapidly advancing computer and experimental technology, researchers are turning to correspondingly sophisticated methods to elicit data, statistically evaluate them, and create models predicting second language learning. In this talk, I aim to advocate specifically for the inclusion of corpus-linguistic analyses into the second language researcher's expanding methodological toolbox. I will give an overview of recent studies that employ sophisticated methods to illustrate how learner corpus research can complement experimental methods in the investigation of some of the hottest issues in second language acquisition research, such as appropriate characterizations of the input; adequate modeling of the highly L1-specific nature of learner language development; and even the increasingly recognized role of individual variation in the acquisition process. I close with a critical discussion of limitations of corpus-based approaches to second language acquisition and desiderata for future research.

Questions?
Please contact Aleksandra Tomic at a.tomic@ufl.edu
Or Pamir Gogoi at pgogoi@ufl.edu