

Bidirectional Influence between Languages: Theoretical Foundations and Pedagogical Implications

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Abstract

There has been extensive research into how L_1 affects L_2 , commonly known as 'negative influence', but a lot less about the opposite direction, commonly known as 'Reverse or Backward' transfer. The present study attempts to examine and critically review pertinent research into the question of bidirectional influence between languages. First, it traces the conceptual framework of the notion $L_1 \rightarrow L_2$ effect. Second, it attempts to demonstrate how an emerging new language (L_2) affects the existing L_1 . Although there are several ways of conceptualizing L_2 influence on L_1 , the focus, in the present study, is on the concept of "Multi-Competence" introduced by Cook (1991) and how it shifts the evaluation angle of the interlanguage system. Third, it examines the pedagogical aspects of both directions, as manifested in L_2 classroom.

Keywords: L_1 effect on L_2 ; Reverse transfer; Pedagogical aspects