

This is a cross-linguistic study on motion event descriptions in L1 and L2 focusing on English and Japanese. Examining the complex caused motion event descriptions by L1 speakers and learners (L2), we will argue that there are not only the L1 influence but also learner strategies in the learners' languages.

Talmy (1985, 1991, 2000) suggests the typology of motion event descriptions, in which languages can be classified into S-languages and V-languages based on the patterns by which languages code the path of motion. Since then, several studies on the L2 acquisition of motion descriptions have been conducted. Many of them (Cadierno 2004; Catierno & Lund 2004; Montrul 2001; Spring & Horie 2013) have examined L2 output from learners whose L1s are of different types in Talmy's typology, and showed the influence of their L1 coding pattern on L2 as relating it to Slobin (1996)'s 'thinking for speaking' theory. This study also follows them, focusing on the languages of different types: Japanese (V-language) and English (S-language). It should be noted that there are few studies on complex caused motion events. We believe that more complex events will reveal learners' strategies and their L1 influence in more detail, so aim to explore properties of learners' languages and their strategies examining complex "call-causing motion events."

We adapt a production experiment using video-taped movies as the stimuli, and examine the languages bidirectionally, i.e. we examine the data obtained from Japanese L1 (J-L1), English L1 (E-L1), Japanese learners of English (E-L2), and English learners of Japanese (J-L2). The "call-causing motion events" in the movies consist of two subevents: one is the "causal events," to be more precise, the calling event where Maria's friend calls her by her name, and another is the "motion event" that is caused by the calling event. Both English and Japanese have several constructions to describe the events, as in (1) and (2).

- (1) a. My friend called Maria into the pavilion. (Simple sentence)
- b. My friend calls Maria from inside the pavilion, and she goes inside. (Coordinate sentence)
- (2) a. Maria-ga yuzin-ni yob-are-te kyukeisyo-ni hait-te it-ta.
Maria-NOM friend-DAT call-PASS-CONJ pavilion-to enter-CONJ go-PST
"Maria was called by her friend and went into the pavilion." (Subordinate clause & Main clause)
- b. Yuzin-ga Maria-o yobu-to, Maria-wa yukkuri yuzin-no-moto-ni arui-te it-ta.
friend-NOM Maria-ACC call-then Maria-TOP slowly fr.-GEN-place-to walk-CONJ went
"A friend called Maria, and Maria walked to the friend slowly." (Coordinate sentence)

First, we limit the data to the one that refers to both subevents, and examine their sentence structures. Figure 1 is the result, which shows that both learner groups (E-L2 and J-L2) significantly use coordinate sentences more often than the corresponding L1 groups (E-L1 and J-L1). We suggest that this is not L1 influence but one of the learner strategies, because L1 groups show different patterns. The learners' descriptions indicate that they tend to express the complex events by using simple and basic sentence structure. Then, we investigate the ratio of indicating each semantic component in the motion event. Figure 2 shows to what extent each component is mentioned in each group, where we can see obvious differences among the groups. It is plausible to attribute the coding frequency of the deictic component in E-L2 to the L1 influence, because Japanese (J-L1) significantly expresses Deixis more often than English (E-L1), and the manner frequency in J-L2 also to the L1 (E-L1) influence. It should be noted that the fact that the learners (E-L2 and J-L2) tended to express less Path (into) is also observed in the subjective motion events as pointed out in Yoshinari et al. (2013). We, therefore, claim that this is a property of learners' languages. These findings demonstrate the influence of the native language on second language acquisition and learner strategies when expressing complex events.

Figure 1. Sentence structures when expressing both subevents

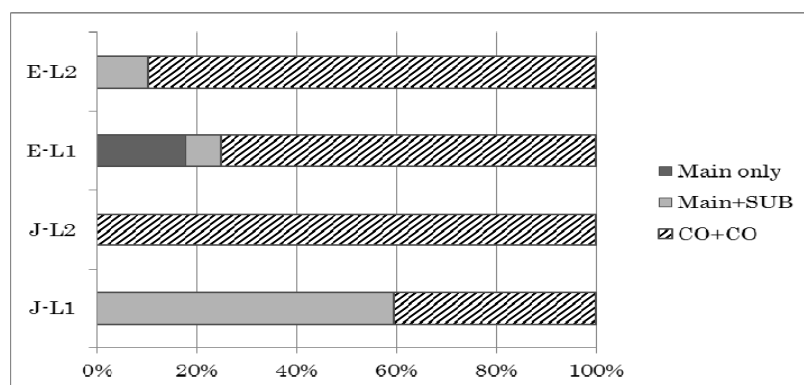
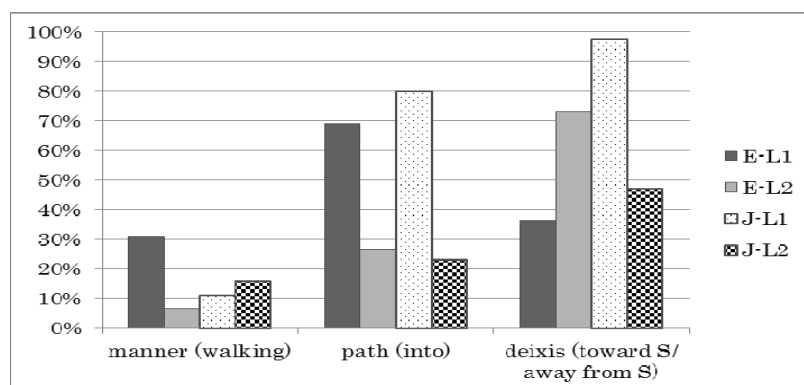


Figure 2. Ratio of mentioning semantic components of motion events



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