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Nature de la mission: participation au colloque international GURT 2014, *Usage-based Approaches to Language, Language Learning and Multilingualism*.

(<http://units.georgetown.edu/linguistics/gurt/2014/>)

Lieu et date: Georgetown University, Washington DC, USA ; 14-16 mars 2014.

Description de la mission:

Aim of the conference :

The aim of GURT 2014 is to bring together research from various usage-based perspectives in order to explore (a) how communicative context and language use, in interaction with general cognitive processes, shape the properties of language, language change, and language learning and (b) the consequences of bilingualism and multilingualism for usage-based theorizing and investigation.

My contribution (joint paper with Julien Perrez):

Typological perspectives on learner's descriptions of spatial scenes

Cross-linguistic studies focusing on the expression of motion and locative events have confirmed that the typological differences between Verb-framed and Satellite-framed languages (Talmy 2000) pose problems for L2 acquisition (cf., among others, Hickmann 2007, Hickmann & Hendricks 2006). More specifically, these studies have shown how learners of V-framed languages (such as French) struggle with the expression of location and placement in S-framed languages (for instance Dutch, see Gullberg 2009). Particularly in Dutch, the expression of locative information is notoriously difficult for French speakers given that high degree of grammaticalisation of posture verbs used for such spatial descriptions.

In this paper, we present a quantitative and qualitative analysis of elicited locative descriptions (based on 5 pictures rich in locative detail) produced by French speaking learners of Dutch. The analysis show clear differences at the **lexical** level: (1) the L2-speakers underuse posture verbs and overuse existential verbs, with too high density (L1-transfer); (2) they overuse perception verbs (L1-transfer); and (3) there is occasional overgeneralisation and contextual contamination in choice of posture verbs (e.g., influence of the type of Ground). Also in their use of **constructions** (presentational clauses, basic locative constructions, etc.), the learner data reveal interesting tendencies: (1) they overuse the presentational constructions which does not appear to be transfer from L1 and (2) their constructions reveal that they use the posture verbs as such, rather than as more grammaticalised locative verbs (L1 transfer). At **discourse** level, these difficulties can be attributed to different strategies of structuring information in French and Dutch: whereas Dutch follows a train-model, chaining locative information of one entity to the next (as wagons in a train), French has more an onion-model, where additional layers of information is given on the item already mentioned.

Feed-back and return :

The feed-back from the audience on our presentation was extremely positive and constructive, providing valuable suggestions for further analysis. Our paper has been selected for special volume (edited by Lourdes Ortega and Andrea Tyler), to be published by Georgetown University Press.

The conference further provided a most valuable platform of exchange on recent research on L2 acquisition from a usage-based perspective. As the president of the International Cognitive Linguistics Association (ICLA), I have moreover had interesting discussions with colleagues working in the field of L2 acquisition regarding their (re)integration into the ICLA, a point that is part of my mission statement as ICLA president.