

Ultimate attainment in the use of formulaic sequences among heritage speakers of Turkish in Germany and Turkish-German returnees

Jeanine Treffers-Daller (Reading) and Michael Daller (Swansea)

In this paper we show that heritage speakers are fundamentally different from the large majority of adult second language learners who struggle to acquire native-like lexical patterns (Foster, 2009b; Laufer & Waldman, 2011). We compare the use of formulaic sequences involving *yap-* “do” and “*et-* “do” among heritage speakers of Turkish in Germany (n=45) with those found among Turkish returnees (n=65) and Turkish monolinguals (n=69). Language use by returnees is a very understudied resource although this group can provide crucial insights into the specific language ability of heritage speakers. Results show that returnees who had been back for one year upon recording overuse *et-* and use some hypercorrect forms. Returnees who had been back for seven years upon recording produce formulaic sequences that are quantitatively and qualitatively similar to those of monolingual speakers of Turkish. We discuss implications for theories of ultimate attainment and incomplete acquisition in heritage speakers.

Keywords:

Heritage language, ultimate attainment, incomplete acquisition, Turkish, returnees

Email: j.c.treffers-daller@reading.ac.uk