

■ PROFILING LEARNER FINNISH AND ESTONIAN: INTERACTION OF FREQUENCY AND ACCURACY AS AN INDICATOR OF LANGUAGE SKILLS

Workshop on Profiling second language vocabulary and grammar

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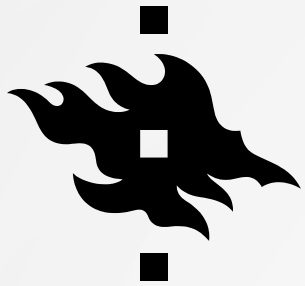
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OUTLINE

- Aim of the presentation
- Background: SLATE-network and related projects
- Language resources
- Approach and methodology: CAF and DEMfad
- Research on interaction of frequency and accuracy in learner Finnish and Estonian
- Conclusions and further perspectives



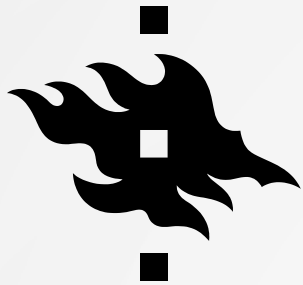
AIM OF THE PRESENTATION

- To introduce some resources of written learner Finnish and Estonian aligned with language proficiency levels of the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages (CEFR)
- To exemplify, how these resources can be applied to the research on language proficiency development, in particular in terms of accuracy and frequency



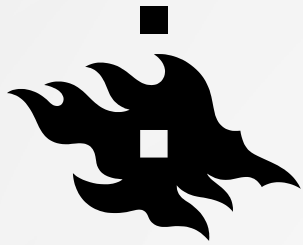
SECOND LANGUAGE ACQUISITION AND TESTING IN EUROPE (2009-)

- SLATE-network
 - The first attempt to integrate SLA and language testing research perspectives
 - Included projects of 12 European universities, involving a number of languages: Dutch, English, Finnish, Estonian, French, German, Italian, Norwegian and Swedish.
 - The main research question : “Which linguistic features of learner performance are typical at each of the six CEFR levels?”
 - Comparability of findings: common research design, tasks, procedures, and analyses



RELATED PROJECTS

- CEFLING (<http://www.jyu.fi/cefling>): Linguistic Basis of the Common European Framework for L2 English and L2 Finnish (University of Jyväskylä, 2007-2009)
- Topling - Paths in Second Language Acquisition (University of Jyväskylä, 2010-2013)
<https://www.jyu.fi/hytk/fi/laitokset/kivi/tutkimus/hankkeet/paattyneet-tutkimushankkeet/topling/en>
- *Symmetry of the cross-linguistic influence in the acquisition of closely related languages* (Jyväskylä University and Tallinn University, 2010-2013)
- *Cross-linguistic influence and second language acquisition: corpus-based research* (Tallinn University, 2010-2013)
- *Corpus study on language-specific and universal features in learner language* (Universities of Oulu, Umeå and Tallinn, 2006-2013)
- *Learner Estonian* (Tallinn University, 2015–2018)



LANGUAGE RESOURCES

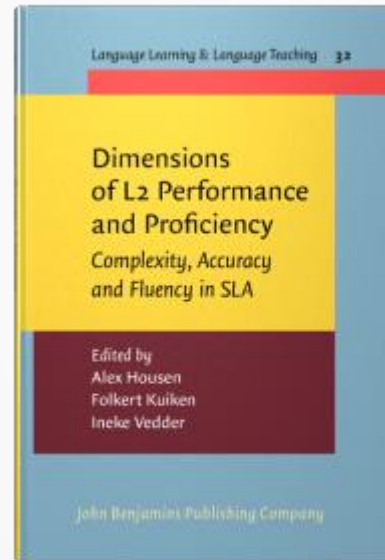
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Tokens	920 000	657 000	806 000	101 000	3 000 000	46407
Proficiency level	A1-C2	B2-C2	A1-C2	A1-C2	A1-C2	B1-B2
L2/FL	FF (22 L1s)	F2	F2	F2	E2/EF (21 Ls)	E2
Longitudinality	(yes)	yes	no	yes	(yes)	no
Reference corpus	no	yes	yes	yes	yes	no



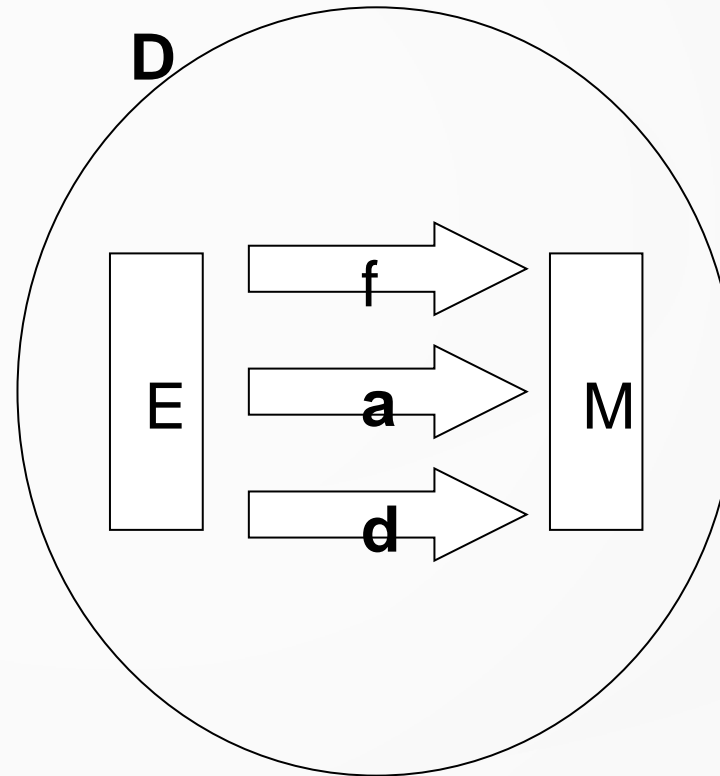
CAF-TRIAD AND DEMFAD

CAF-triad (Housen et al 2012)

complexity
accuracy
fluency



(Franceschina, F. et al 2006)



D = Domain
E = Emergence
M = Mastery
f = frequency
a = accuracy
d = distribution



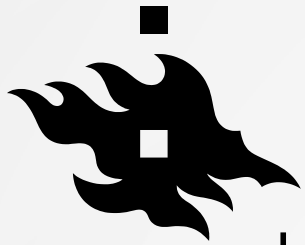
SOME EXAMPLES ON INTERACTION OF FREQUENCY AND ACCURACY

		A1-A2	A2-B1	B1-B2	B2-C1	C1-C2
Existential clauses (F) (Kajander 2013)	Frequency	<	>=	>=	>	>
	Accuracy	=	<	<	=	<
Passive clauses (F) (Seilonen 2013)	Frequency	=	<	<	<<	=
	Accuracy	<	>	<	<	=
Local cases (Spat-TO, F) (Mustonen 2015)	Frequency	>>	>	=	=	>>
	Accuracy	<<	<<	<	=	=
Conditional mode (E) (Kitsnik 2015)	Frequency			>>		
	Accuracy			<		



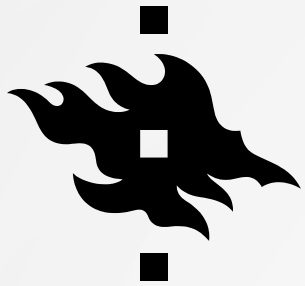
CONCLUSIONS

- Most often, accuracy increases from one CEFR level to another.
- In general, errors increase from A2 to B1 and decrease from B1 to B2
- Errors can also decrease from A2 to B1 and then increase to B2.
- An increase of use often precedes an improvement in accuracy at the next CEFR level.
- Common constructions peak earlier both in use and accuracy than the less obligatory ones



FURTHER PERSPECTIVES

- Low accuracy in rarer constructions can function as indicator of high-level language skills (Siitonen & Martin 2012)
- Fluency in writing (Gaitšenja 2019)
 - Keystroke logging software ScriptLog (the newer version graph theory-based GGXLog)
 - keeps a record of all events on the keyboard
 - pause locations and durations can be extracted
 - P-burst = production of text between two pauses
 - Results
 - At A2 level, text production was the most limited of all levels
 - At B2 level increased accuracy is combined with decreased fluency, i.e. increase of corrections, deletion, additions.
 - Text production is the most fluent at C1 level.

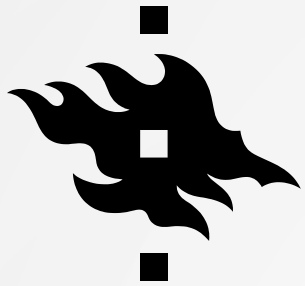


WRITING PROCESS

- <21.314>
- päästäkseen<BACKSPACE8>stäkseen
- <8.156>
- sinne minne ne <BACKSPACE22>

annettu, ja eivätkä tarvitsi muuttaa tuhansia kilometrejä kotiseudujlta pois |

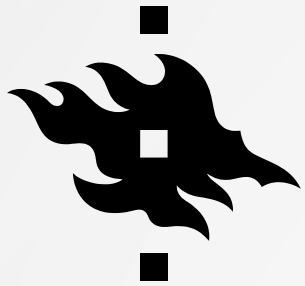
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