「論文」A Qualitative Approach to Measuring Lexical
Developments with Psycholinguistic Word Attributes in
Japanese EFL Writing

Takumi Ishii

Abstract

The present study explores a qualitative approach for measuring the lexical development of Japanese learners of English as a foreign language (EFL) in writing using psycholinguistic word attributes. Because no traditional approaches for measuring the lexical development in second language (L2) learners' output have considered the qualitative aspects of words, a qualitative approach with psycholinguistic word attributes has recently been proposed. The reliability and validity of this approach, however, have not yet been fully examined. The present study, therefore, tests the reliability and validity of psycholinguistic-attribute measures in corpus-based analysis. The results indicated that psycholinguistic-attribute measures were reliable for texts in the range of 200.300 words and were sufficiently valid to distinguish Japanese EFL learners and English native speakers. The results also demonstrated the necessity of further investigation regarding the validity of the psycholinguistic-attribute measures for measuring the lexical development of Japanese EFL learners with different proficiency levels. In summary, the findings of the present study contribute significantly to evaluating the usefulness of the qualitative approach with psycholinguistic-attribute measures and show clear directions for further research.

「論文」The Design, Development and Research Potential of
Kansai University Bilingual Essay Corpus

Miho Yamashita

Abstract

This paper describes a corpus project currently being undertaken at Kansai University, Osaka. The project officially began in April 2012 and will continue through 2014 for the primary purpose of collecting essay data written in both English and Japanese by undergraduate students. In this paper, the design and the development of the corpus, which we call Kansai University Bilingual Essay Corpus (KUBEC), will be explained, followed by a pilot study conducted on the English part of the data from KUBEC. In the final section of this paper, the author discusses future research to be pursued in the next phase of the project.