



L1 influence in the development of learner Finnish: Comparing two learner corpora

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TALLINN UNIVERSITY



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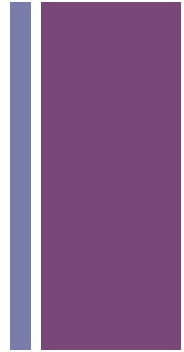
Eesti tuleviku heaks



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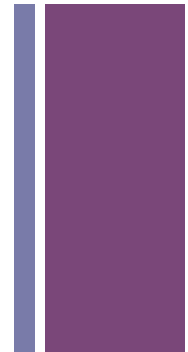
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+ Co-operation

- Linguistic Basis of Common European Framework for L2 English and L2 Finnish (Cefling), Paths in Second Language Acquisition (Topling) – University of Jyväskylä.
- Cross-linguistic influence and second language acquisition: corpus-based research ETF8240 – University of Tallinn
- Corpus study on language-specific and universal features in learner language (CoLLU) – University of Oulu, Petrozavodsk University , Tallinn University and Umeå University.
- Second Language Acquisition & Testing in Europe (SLATE).



+ Purpose and research questions

The development of the use of local cases in learner Finnish, focusing on Estonian learners of Finnish and especially on identifying the effect of positive transfer.

- How do the frequency, accuracy and distribution develop on different levels of language proficiency?
- Does the effect of transfer change qualitatively and/or quantitatively on different levels of language proficiency? How?
- Does the positive transfer lead to a faster development of the command of Finnish local cases by L1 Estonian learners, measured by frequency, accuracy and distribution, compared to learners of other L1 backgrounds?





Framework

- Cognitive semantics and locality hypothesis: from spatial domain / concrete (*Spat*) to circumstantial / abstract use (*Circ*).

- *fin. Kassi-ssa on kissa;*
est. Koti-s on kass.
bag-INE.SG be-PRES.ACT.SG3 cat-NOM.SG
'Cat is **in the bag**'

- *fin. Heillä kaikki on kunno-ssa;*
est. Neil on kõik korra-s.
They-ADE.SG everything be-PRES.ACT.SG3 order-INE.SG
'Everything is **in order** with them'

- Cross-linguistic influence and transfer
- Cross-linguistic similarity: „*Similarity is basic, difference is secondary*“ (Ringbom 2007: 1-2)
 - Objective, perceived and assumed similarity



+ Materials, methods, tools

ICLFI - International Corpus of Learner Finnish

- L1 Estonian subcorpus
- 86 187 words
- Written exercises and tests
- Connexor fi-fdg
- WordSmith Tools 5.0 (Scott 2008)
- Finnish as a foreign language

YKI - Finnish National Certificate exams of Language Proficiency

- More than 20 different L1
- 53 019 words
- Written tests
- CLAN-analysis program
- Finnish as a second language

- CEFR A1-C2
- DEMfad (Franceschina et al 2006)
 - Log-likelihood calculator
- <http://ucrel.lancs.ac.uk/llwizard.html>

+ Frequency, accuracy and distribution

Frequency
per 1000 words

Accuracy
The choice of the case.
Target-like use > 80%

Distribution
Concrete to abstract phrases,
lexical variation



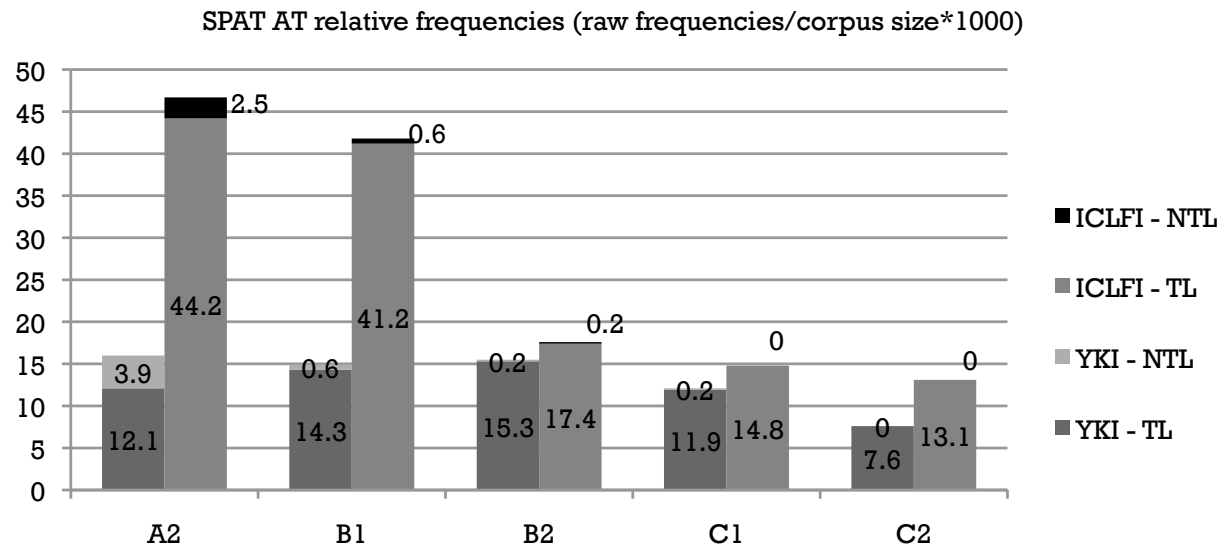
Local cases in Finnish and Estonian:

quality and directionality

	Static (being/ existence)		Dynamic (direction of movement)			
	IN/ON/AT		FROM		TO	
Internal	Inessive		Elative		Illative	
	-ssA	-s	-stA	-st	-(h)Vn -seen	-sse short illative
External	Adessive		Ablative		Allative	
	-llA	-l	-ltA	-lt	-lle	-le
General	Essive		(Partitive)		Translative	
	-nA	-na	-A -tA		-ksi	-ks



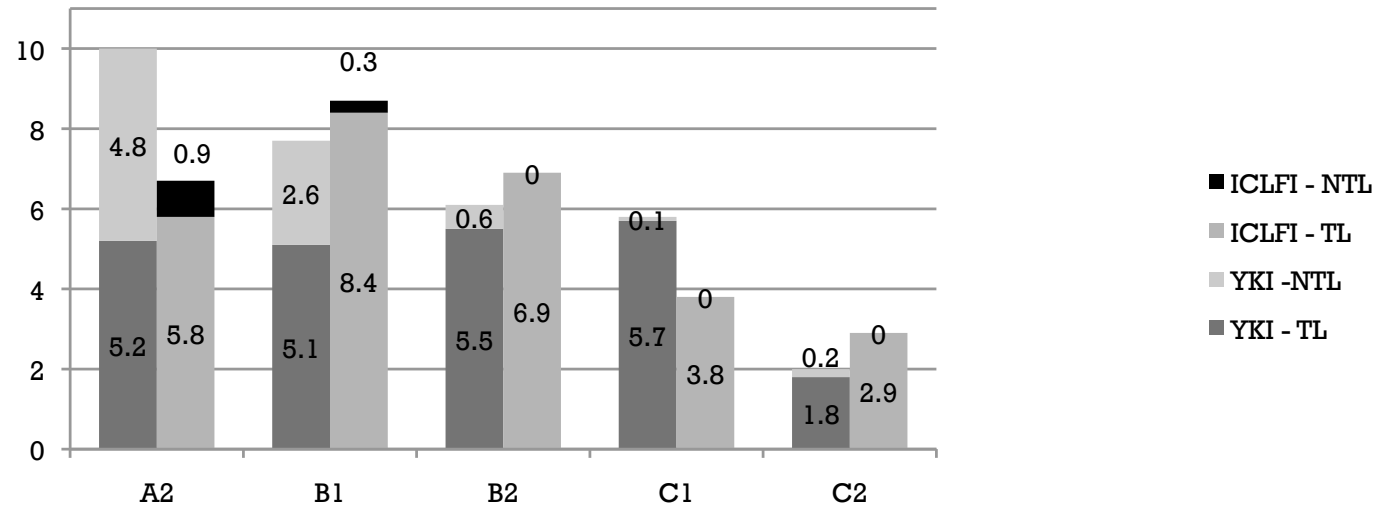
Concrete use of local cases: SPAT AT



	A2	B1	B2	C1	C2
Log likelihood(Frequency)	LL=126.01;p<.0001	LL=198.32;p<.0001	LL=1.78	LL=1.77	LL=4.12;p<.05
Log likelihood (NTL)	LL=2.52	LL=0.05	LL=0.02	LL=1.3	LL=0.25
Log likelihood (Lexical variation)	LL=2.85	LL=9.16;p<.01	LL=1.47	LL=0.03	LL=1.59

+ SPAT TO

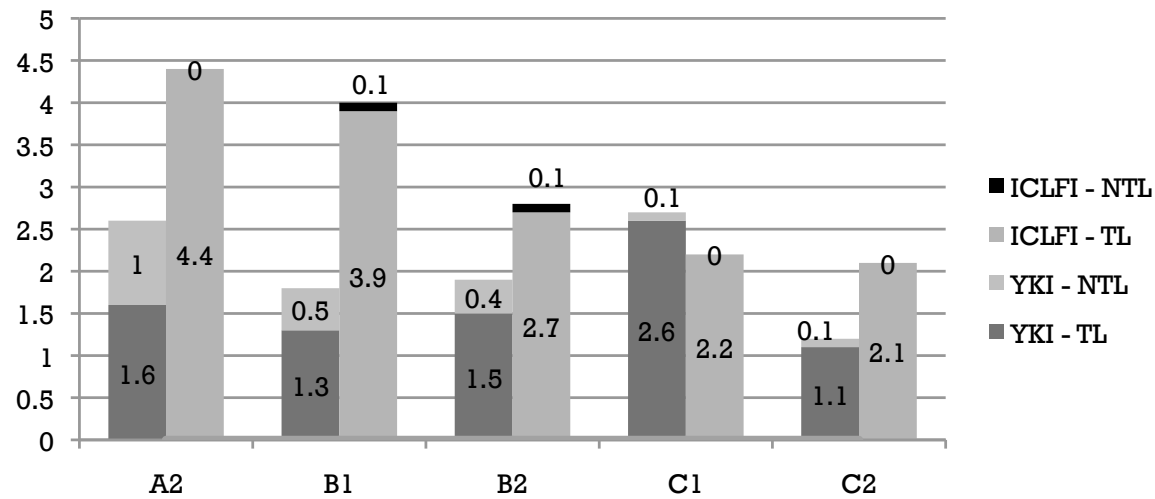
SPAT TO relative frequencies (raw frequencies/corpus size*1000)



	A2	B1	B2	C1	C2
Log likelihood (Frequency)	LL=6.82;p<.05	LL=0.89	LL=0.77	LL=2.18	LL=0.29
Log likelihood (NTL)	LL=29.36;p<.0001	LL=39.70;p<.0001	LL=14.77;p<.001	LL=0.66	LL=0.00
Log likelihood (Lexical variation)	LL=3.18	LL=0.04	LL=4.72;p<.05	LL=1.70	LL=1.09

+ SPAT FROM

SPAT FROM relative frequencies (raw frequencies/corpus size*1000)



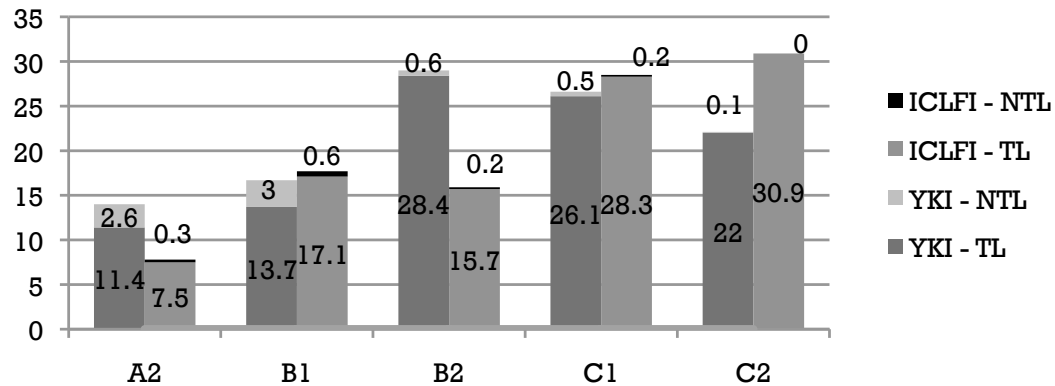
	A2	B1	B2	C1	C2
Log likelihood (Frequency)	LL=3.73	LL=11.40;p<.001	LL=4.08;p<.05	LL=0.30	LL=0.64
Log likelihood (NTL)	LL=17.20;p<.0001	LL=4.68;p<.05	LL=3.81	LL=0.66	LL=0.25
Log likelihood (Lexical variation)	LL=0.00	LL=5.98;p<.05	LL=3.81	LL=0.00	LL=1.03



Abstract use of local cases: CIRC AT



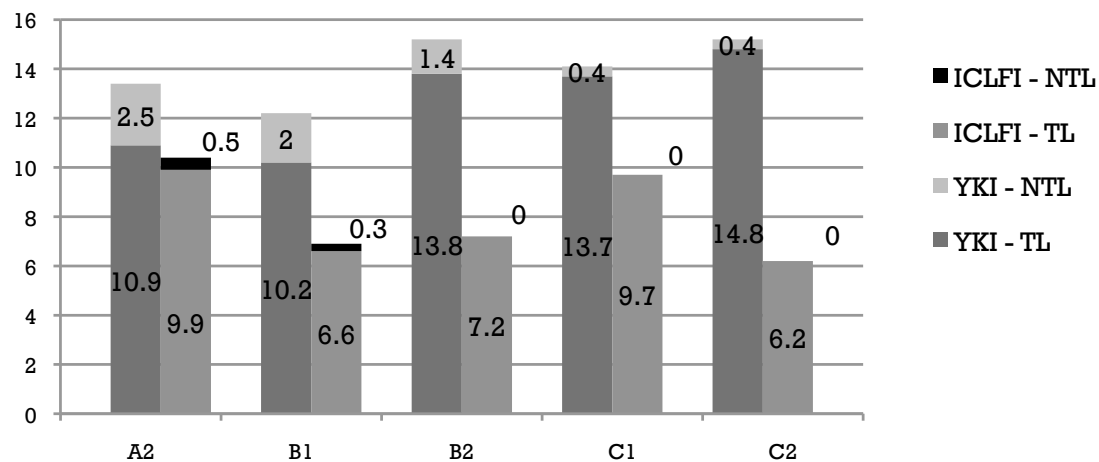
CIRC AT relative frequencies(raw frequencies/corpus size*1000)



	A2	B1	B2	C1	C2
Log likelihood(Frequency)	LL=21.50;p<.0001	LL=1.89	LL=9.82;p<.01	LL=15.06;p<.001	LL=3.96;p<.05
Log likelihood (NTL)	LL=23.23;p<.0001	LL=33.42;p<.0001	LL=2.72	LL=0.76	LL=0.25
Log likelihood (Lexical variation)	LL=4.53;p<.05	LL=0.15	LL=50.49;p<.0001	LL=3.60	LL=3.41

+ CIRC TO

CIRC TO relative frequencies (raw frequencies/corpus size*1000)

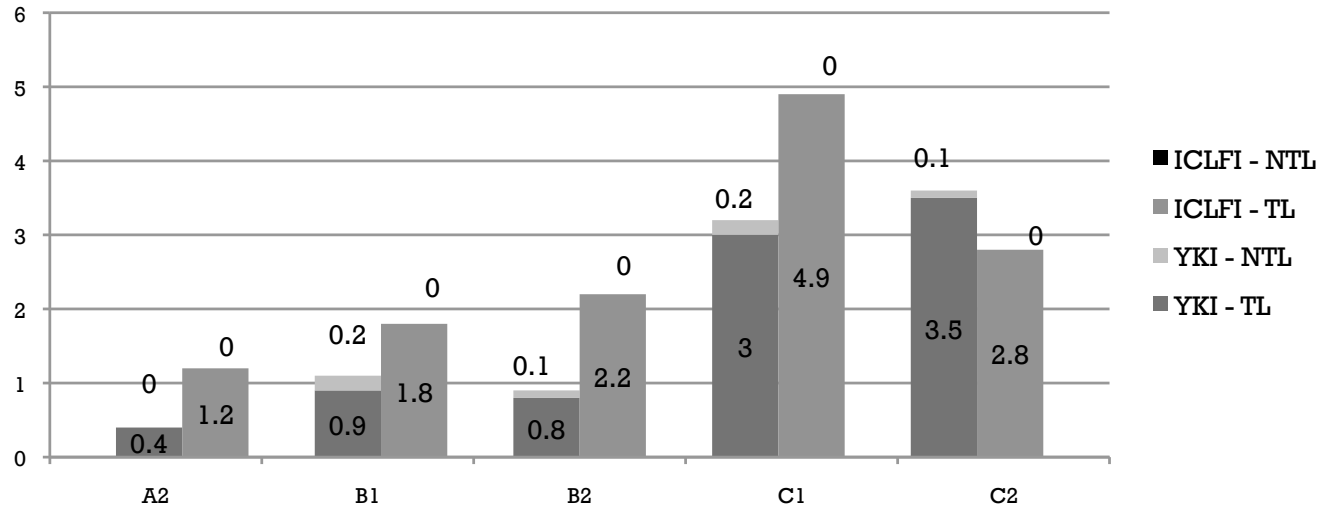


	A2	B1	B2	C1	C2
Log likelihood(Freq uency)	LL=6.93;p<.01	LL=33.02;p<.0001	LL=33.65;p<.0001	LL=4.61;p<.05	LL=9.10;p<.01
Log likelihood (NTL)	LL=14.25;p<.001	LL=27.26;p<.0001	LL=38.41;p<.0001	LL=3.31	LL=1.01
Log likelihood (Lexical variation)	LL=19.81;p<.0001	LL=17.57;p<.0001	LL=24.71;p<.0001	LL=3.14	LL=2.24



CIRC FROM

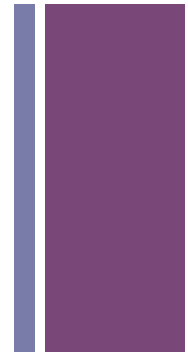
CIRC FROM relative frequencies(raw frequencies/corpus size*1000)



	A2	B1	B2	C1	C2
Log likelihood(Freq uency)	LL=3.95;p<.05	LL=23.06;p<.0001	LL=22.52;p<.0001	LL=2.30	LL=0.28
Log likelihood (NTL)	LL=0.00	LL=5.38;p<.05	LL=2.95	LL=1.32	LL=0.25
Log likelihood (Lexical variation)	LL=3.15	LL=0.03	LL=4.65;p<.05	LL=0.96	LL=0.06

+ Results

- Frequency
 - Higher frequency of concrete (SPAT) uses;
 - SPAT ↓ CIRC ↑;
 - Less TO and more FROM phrases (L1 Estonian)
- Accuracy ↑ Proficiency level ↑
- Distribution (lexical variation)
 - SPAT phrases same;
 - CIRC phrases ↑ Proficiency level ↑ ;
 - No difference between lexical distribution.





Learners with a closely related L1 exhibit native-like performance by the means of frequency and accuracy in earlier stages compared the learners from other language backgrounds.

- Reference corpus?
- Target-like usage by the means of accuracy first in abstract phrases.

Locality hypothesis

Negative L1 influence:
Avoidance of TO phrases ?

Thank you
for your
attention!