

Multi-Word Units in Multilingual Learners

The MuLeCo Project



Patricia de Crignis
Annika Moratzky
Cecilia Ugartemendía
Florian Zacherl

Outline

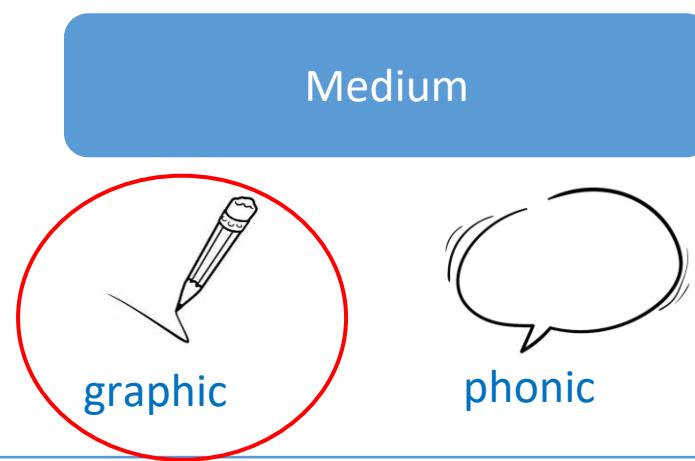


- *Munich Learner Corpus* (MuLeCo)
- Methodology
- Multi-Word example: DOM in Spanish (preliminary results)
- Perspectives

Munich Learner Corpus (MuLeCo)

Error-annotated learner corpus
& exercise platform for learners

three foreign romance languages		
French	Spanish	Italian



Munich Learner Corpus (MuLeCo)

(cf. Franke 2017, Gilquin 2022, 2023, Granger et al. 2009, Granger/Gilquin/Meunier 2015, Reznicek et al. 2012...)

Virtual research and learning environment



digital research and learning environment



digitally available research data and learning material



computer-assisted procedures and methods for research



Romance Philology: up to now no sufficient support for L1 German



Munich Learner Corpus (MuLeCo)

Linguistics

Interfaces for needs/use in classroom, learners

We need errors
for learning
processes

Errors as a
basis for
evaluation

classroom/learners

errors/level of
competence?
difficult categories?

feedback-exercises based
on linguistic data



Language Awareness
awareness of difficult categories

awareness of individual weaknesses



Autonomous learning:
reenforcing/enhancing strategies for
self-correction

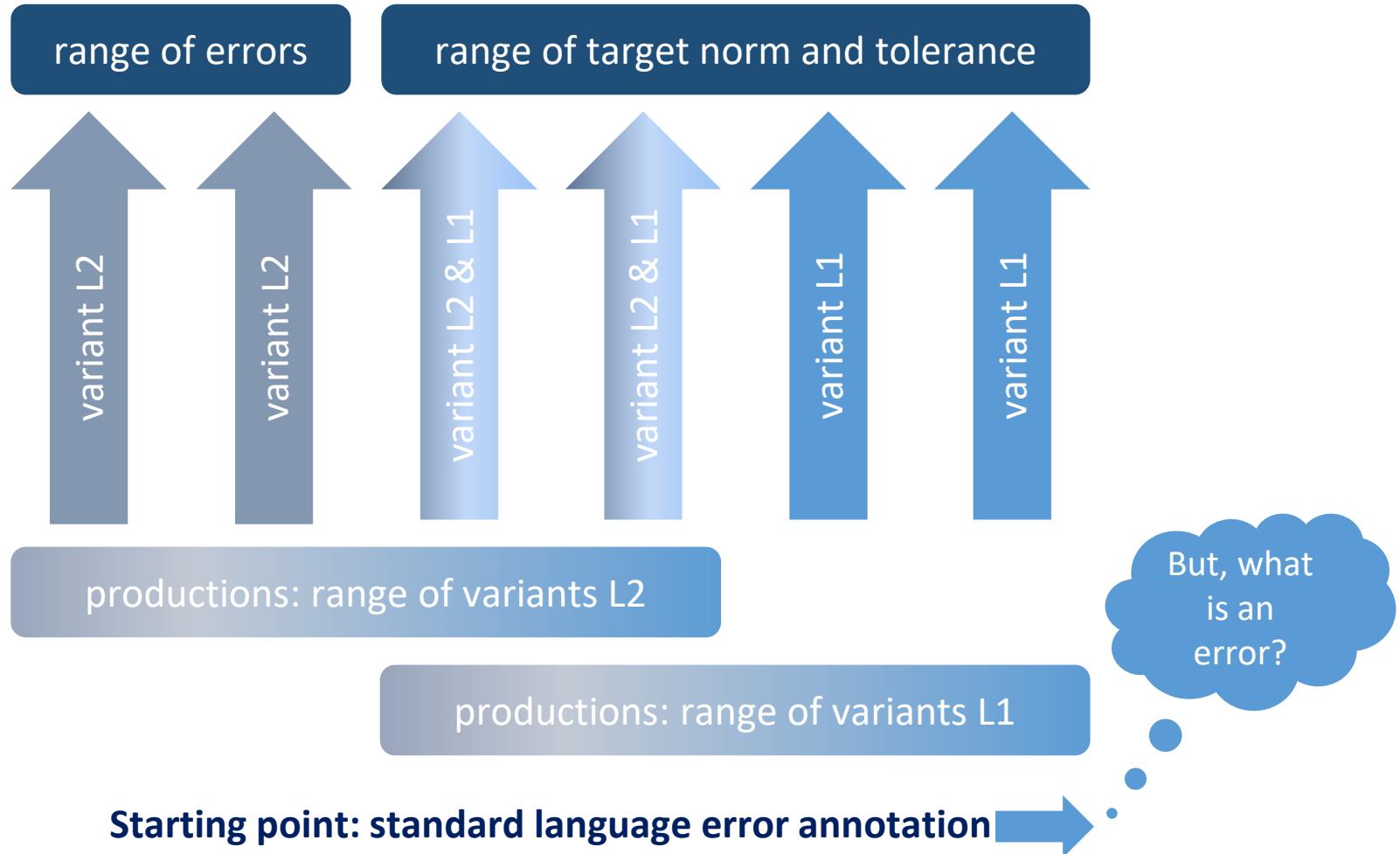
individual,
needs-
oriented

something
learners
want/need

(cf. Schlaak 2020)

Munich Learner Corpus (MuLeCo)

Goal: rethinking errors



Munich Learner Corpus (MuLeCo)

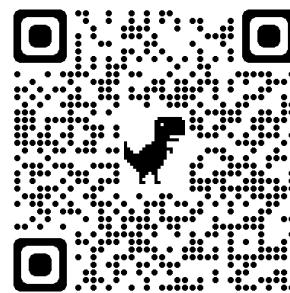
Our team

Informatics

IT-Group

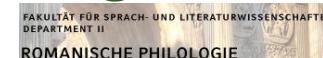
Humanities

- Stephan Lücke
- Christian Riepl
- Florian Zacherl



Operation beyond the
development phase
(cf. Franke 2017)

Linguistics & Didactics



Romance Philology

- Patricia de Crignis
- Annika Moratzky
- Cecilia Ugartemendía
- Johanna Wolf
- (Marion Le Brun)

Munich Learner Corpus (MuLeCo)

IT-Gruppe Geisteswissenschaften (ITG) – LMU Center for Digital Humanities

(cf. Krefeld/Lücke
2007, 2009, 2015)



sustainable research data management (RDM):
FAIR-principles

Auffindbar
(**F**indable)



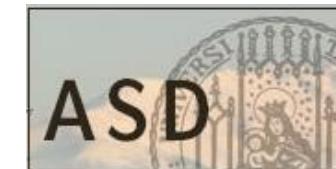
Zugänglich
(**A**ccessible)



Interoperabel
(**I**nteroperable)



Wiederverwendbar
(**R**eusable)



Methodology

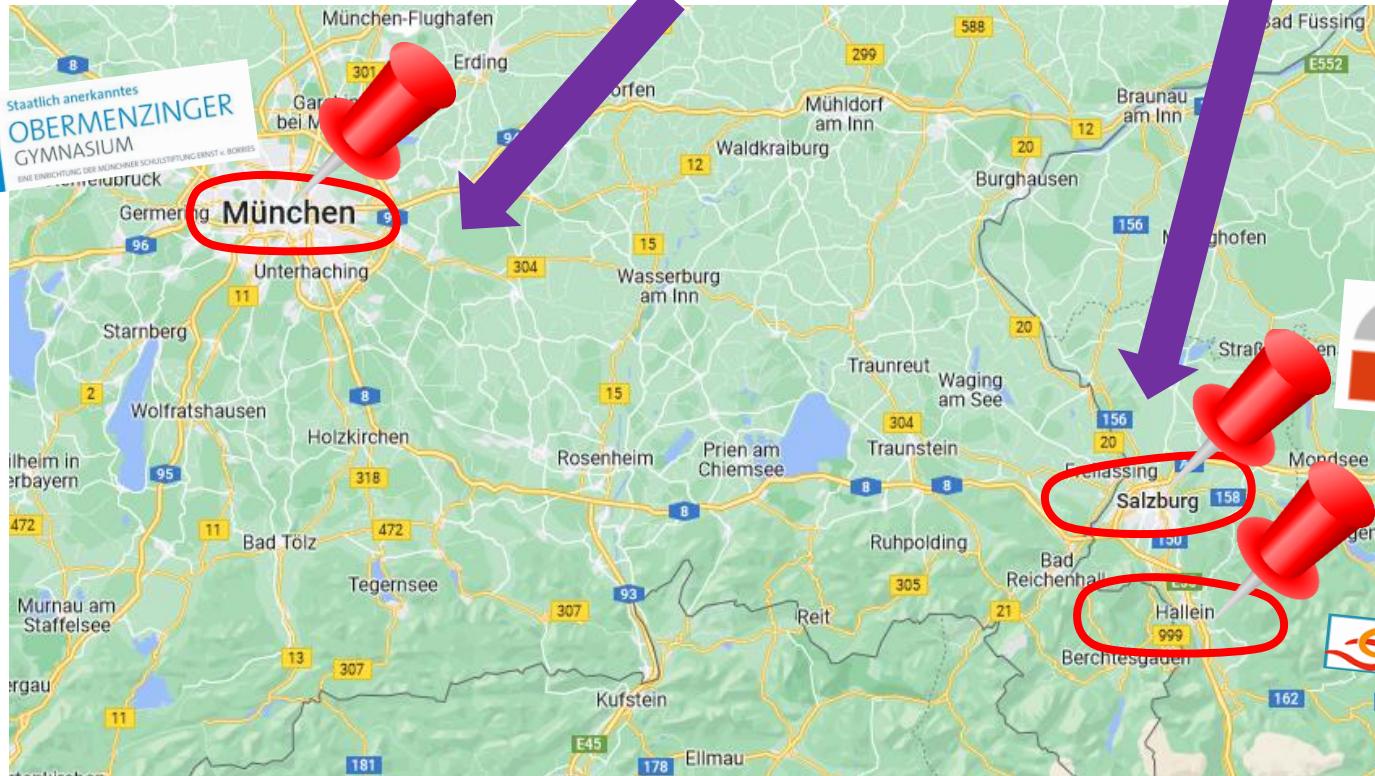
„the variety that the learners represented in the corpus are most likely to have been exposed to“
(Gilquin 2022: 9)

+ L1 SP control group
Spain (Salamanca)

Where we started: **Private** schools

2

Germany: FR
(Useni 2022)



1

Austria: SP
(Nicolussi/Pilz 2021)



Munich Learner Corpus (MuLeCo)

In the schools

- Letter of consent
- Introduction to the task
- Questionnaire on the learning situation

Fragebogen zur Lernsituation
(adaptiert nach Ender 2007: 229)

Dieser Fragebogen dient zur Erhebung persönlicher Daten der Sprachlernerfahrungen des Teilnehmers bzw. der Teilnehmerin. Alle Daten werden anonym behandelt.

Anfangsbuchstaben des Namens (Vorname und Nachname): FB

Alter: 16 Jahre

Geschlecht: weiblich männlich

Geburtsort (Land, Stadt): Salzburg, Salzburg

Wohnort (Land, Stadt): Salzburg, Salzburg

L1 (Erstsprache bzw. Muttersprache): Deutsch
L2 (Zweitsprache bzw. erste gelernte Fremdsprache):
L3 (Drittsprache bzw. zweite gelernte Fremdsprache): Englisch
Weitere: _____

Welches Sprachniveau hast du in Spanisch?
 A1 A2 B1 B2 C1 C2

Seit wie vielen Jahren lernst du Spanisch? (Lernjahre)
 1 2 3 4 5 6 mehr: _____

Wie viele Stunden Spanischunterricht hast du in der Woche?
 1 2 3 4 5 6 mehr: _____

Beschäftigst du dich mit dem Spanischen auch außerhalb deiner schulischen Verpflichtungen?
 ja nein
 ja; was genau machst du? (z.B. Filme schauen) _____; wie oft? (z. B. einmal die Woche) _____

Besondere Lernerfahrungen in Spanisch (z.B. Austauschprogramme, Sprachkurse, ...)
 ja nein
 ja (welche?) _____; wie lange? _____

Wurde bei dir jemals eine Lese- und Rechtschreibschwäche festgestellt? ja nein

2

Methodology

Data elicitation

picture story: *Frog, where are you?*

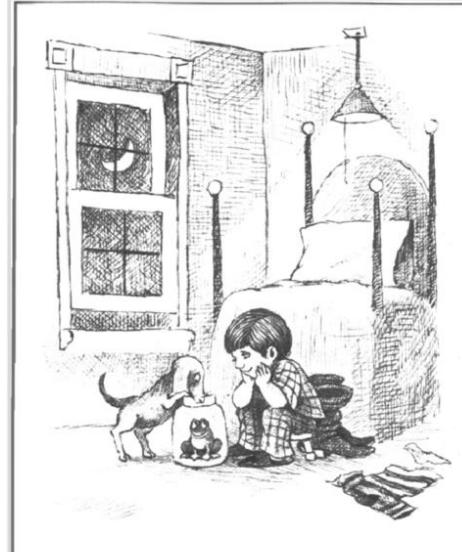
Bild 1



la rana
el perro
pequeño/a
fascinado/a
observar

der Frosch
der Hund
klein
fasziniert
beobachten

Bild 1



la grenouille
le chien
petit/e
observer avec
fascination

der Frosch
der Hund
klein
fasziniert beobachten

FROG, WHERE ARE YOU?

Sequel to A BOY, A DOG AND A FROG



by Mercer Mayer

Dial Books for Young Readers
New York



- written production
- description of 29 pictures
- 1 sentence per picture
- use of given vocabulary
(cognitive relief;
cf. Walter 2004, 2007)
- working time: 45-60 minutes
- acquisition of grammar and writing skills

Methodology

Participants

learners

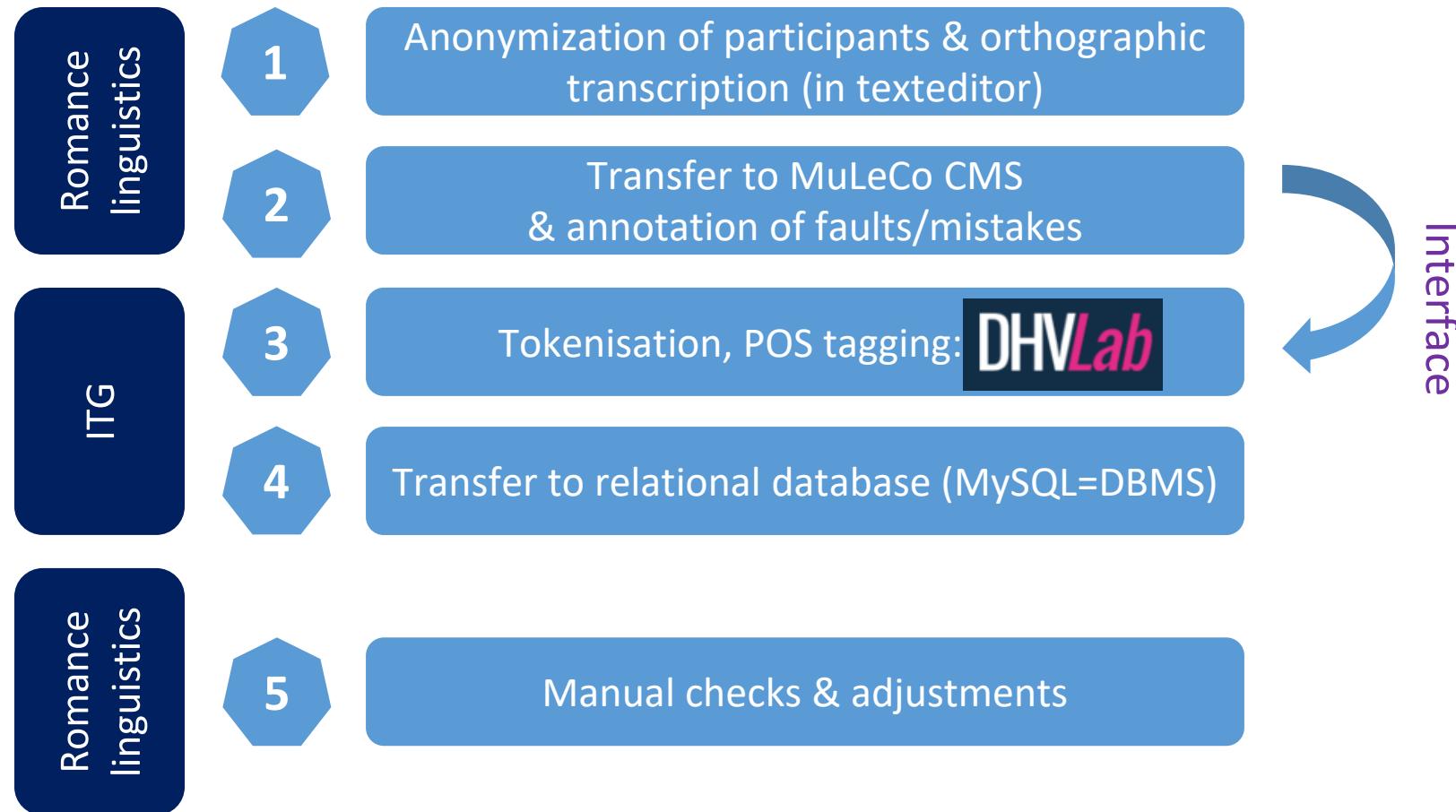
	Salzburg & Hallein	München
language (L2/L3)	SPA	FRA
students	39 (age: 15-18)	67 (age: 11-17)
level	A1, A2, B1	A2, B1
L1	mostly German; Turkish, Serbo-Croatian, English, Arabic etc.	

control group

	Salamanca	<i>in progress ...</i>
language (L1)	SPA	FRA
students	29 (age: 16)	
L2; L3	English; French	

Methodology

Data handling



Methodology

Participants: anonymous code

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Parameter	L1 (ISO 639-1)	Mehrsprachigkeit	Sprache Produktion	Sprach-niveau	Textart	Medium	ID text
Ausprägung	DE/TR/PL ...	N(ein) J(a)	ES/FR/IT	A/B/C 1/2	B(ildergeschichte) F(reie) Produktion	S (graph.) M (phon.)	001, 002, 002, 004, ...
Beispiel	DE	N	ES	A2	B	S	001

DENESA2BS001

Methodology

Error annotation (SP), an example (DENESA2BS001)

sentence numbering

1. Era un pequeño niño que observaba #0+a# [PREPAKK+ANY+OMI+] una rana, que
#era+estaba# [SER_EST+ANY+SER+EST] en un frasco, con su perro.
2. Cuándo cambia #casado+cansado# [ORT+UNS+FAL+], #empezaba# [V+ASP -PER
+PER] #0+a# [PREP+VP+OMI+] dormir en su cama.
3. Cuándo se #despertaba+despertó# [V+ASP+IMP+PERF] el frasco estaba abierto y el
niño no #podría+podía# [V+MOD+KOND1+IND] ver #0+a# [PREPAKK+ANY+OMI+]
su compañera.
4. Empezó #0+a# [PREP+VP+OMI+a] desordenar su habitación y #0+a#
[PREP+ANY+OMI+] buscar #0+a# [PREPAKK+ANY+OMI+] la rana que estaba
desaparecido.
5. Después #busqué+buscó# [ORT+PGK+FAL+] extera de su habitación y llamó
#para+a# [PREP+PP+IO+DO] la rana.

ser/estar

orthography

aspect

Correction of
tokes

Insertion of missing *tokes*

Methodology

Relational database

An example (DENESA2BS001)

Anonymized code

Language Ländercode nach ISO639-1 (müssen manuell in sql-S...)	sigle	SatzNr	TokenNr	Token	Token_Ort orthographisch korrekte Form des Tokens (sofern fe...)	Flag	Analyse	pos Part of Speech (Wortart) des Tokens; ermittelt mit ...	lemma Lemma; ermittelt mit Treagger
es	DENESA2BS001	2	7	dormir	NULL	NULL	V	VlInf	dormir
es	DENESA2BS001	2	8	en	NULL	NULL	P	PREP	en
es	DENESA2BS001	2	9	su	NULL	NULL	O	PPO	suyo
es	DENESA2BS001	2	10	cama	NULL	NULL	C	NC	cama
es	DENESA2BS001	2	11	.	NULL	NULL	S	FS	.
es	DENESA2BS001	3	1	Cuándo	NULL	NULL	A	ADV	cuándo
es	DENESA2BS001	3	2	se	NULL	NULL	S	SE	se
es	DENESA2BS001	3	3	despertaba	NULL	V	VASP -PER +PER	VlFin	despertar
es	DENESA2BS001	3	4	el	NULL	NULL	A	ART	el
es	DENESA2BS001	3	5	frasco	NULL	NULL	C	NC	frasco
es	DENESA2BS001	3	6	estaba	NULL	NULL	S	VEfin	estar
es	DENESA2BS001	3	7	abierto	NULL	NULL	A	ADJ	abierto

AND

correlation with:

Competence level, years of learning, L1/2/3, age, gender, etc.

Search options

Error annotation

Methodology – Example statistical analysis

```
SELECT
    level,
    fraction,
    total,
    ROUND(fraction / total * 100, 1) AS percent
FROM (
    SELECT
        SUBSTR(sigle,6,2) AS level,
        SUM(IF(Analyse LIKE 'V%', 1, 0)) AS
fraction,
        SUM(IF(Analyse != ' ', 1, 0)) AS total
    FROM texte
    GROUP BY level) sq;
```



level	fraction	total	percent
A2	355	1296	27.4
B1	220	958	23.0
B2	29	229	12.7

Percentage of verb
related mistakes
according to
competence levels

Example: DOM in Spanish

What is it about?

El niño abre la ventana y llama a la rana. (L1; VAA6)

'The boy opens the window and calls the frog.'

subject	verb	object marker	dir. object
<i>el niño</i>	<i>abre</i>		<i>la ventana</i>
'the boy'	opens		'the window'
<i>el niño</i>	<i>llama</i>	<i>a</i>	<i>la rana</i>
'the boy'	calls	TO	'the frog'

- **linguistics**
complex interaction of two continua (animacy & specificity)
☒ subject-like dir. objects ☒ a-marking & variation
- **didactics (A1)**
discrete categories (animacy)
☒ animate reference: a-marking
☒ inanimate reference: unmarking (\emptyset)

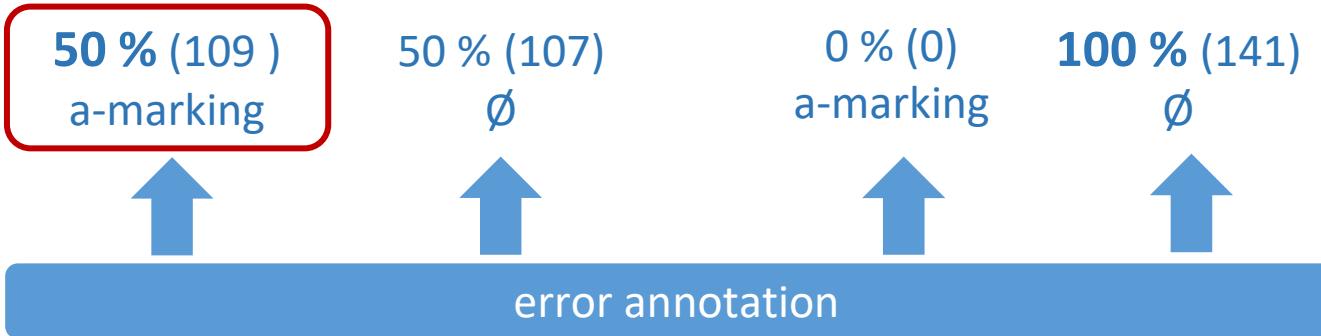


Example: DOM in Spanish



Does school grammar fit the ‘speakers reality’?

DOs (learners): 357	
animate reference	inanimate reference
61 % (216)	39 % (141)



DOs (L1 control group): 275	
animate reference	inanimate reference
63 % (174)	37 % (101)
a-marking	Ø
80 % (139)	20 % (35)
a-marking	Ø
4 % (4)	96 % (97)

Example: DOM in Spanish

What did the students do?

animate reference		inanimate reference	
61 % (216)		39 % (141)	
a-marking	∅	a-marking	∅
10 % (21)	90 % (195)	1 % (1)	99 % (140)



unmarking is predominant
↗ awareness?

Example: DOM in Spanish

How many students use DOM?

A2	B1
17 % (5/29)	30 % (3/10)



unknown grammar rule for many

Do all L1 speakers use DOM in the same way? →

SDH9

animate (human)	animate (animal)	inanimate
(3/3)	7/13	6/13
100 % a-marking	54 % a-marking	46 % \emptyset



tolerance range
& progression

VAA6

animate (human)	animate (animal)	inanimate
(5/5)	7/8	1/8
100 % a-marking	87,5 % a-marking	12,5 % \emptyset

Perspectives

DOM in Spanish (MuLeCo)

- definition of ‘error’ (L1 error annotation vs. L1 control group)
- lack of awareness (A2 & B1)
- L1: variation within animate DOs \nsubseteq tolerance range
- didactics: unmarking of animate DOs, e.g. special verbs (*tener, haber*)

MuLeCo

Things to do

- more data
- Italian
- spoken language etc.

Problems

- syntactic annotation
- word order and/or position errors?
- annotation of transfer phenomena? (= interpretation of data vs. invisibility; CLI as a specific problem area of learners)

Thank you!

Bibliography

- Bossong, Georg (1982): „Historische Sprachwissenschaft und empirische Universalienforschung“, *Romanistisches Jahrbuch* 33, 17-51.
- Bossong, Georg (1998): „Le marquage différentiel de l’objet dans les langues d’Europe“, Feuillet, Jack (ed.), *Actance et valence dans les langues d’Europe*, Berlin/New York: de Gruyter, 193-258.
- Delbecque, N. (2002). A construction grammar approach to transitivity in Spanish. In: *The nominative and accusative and their counterparts*, (81-130). Amsterdam: Benjamins.
- Fábregas, Antonio (2013): „Differential Object Marking in Spanish: State of the Art“, *Borealis: An International Journal of Hispanic Linguistics* 2 (2), 1-80.
- Franke, Michael (2017): „Erfolgsfaktoren für virtuelle Forschungsumgebungen“, in: Seng, Eva-Maria/Keil, Reinhard/Oevel, Gudrun (Eds.): *Kooperative Forschungsumgebungen in den eHumanities*, Berlin, Boston: De Gruyter, 57-65.
- Gilquin, G. 2022. ‘One norm to rule them all? Corpus-derived norms in learner corpus research and foreign language teaching’. *Language Teaching* 55.1: 87-99.
- Gilquin, G. 2023. ‘Written learner corpora to inform teaching’. In R.R. Jablonkai & E. Csomay (eds) *The Routledge Handbook of Corpora and English Language Teaching and Learning* (pp. 281-295). London: Routledge.
- Gómez Torrego, Leonardo (102011): *Gramática didáctica del español*. Madrid: Ediciones SM.
- Krefeld, Thomas/Lücke, Stephan: (seit 2007): Atlante sintattico dell’italiano meridionale (ASICA),
<http://www.asica.gwi.uni-muenchen.de>
- Krefeld, Thomas/Lücke, Stephan: (seit 2009): Audioatlas siebenbürgisch-sächsischer Dialekte (ASD),
<http://www.asd.gwi.uni-muenchen.de/?projektinfo=true>
- Krefeld, Thomas,/Lücke, Stephan: (seit 2015): VerbaAlpina (VA), <http://www.verba-alpina.gwi.uni-muenchen.de>
- Granger, S., Dagneaux, E., Meunier, F. and Paquot, M. (2009). *The International Corpus of Learner English. Version 2*. Handbook and CD-ROM. Louvain-la- neuve: Presses universitaires de Louvain.
- Granger, S., Gilquin, G., & Meunier, F. (Eds.). (2015). *The Cambridge Handbook of Learner Corpus Research* (Cambridge Handbooks in Language and Linguistics). Cambridge: Cambridge University Press. doi:10.1017/CBO9781139649414
- Pomino, Natascha (2012). Der präpositionale Akkusativ. *Handbuch Spanisch. Sprache, Literatur, Kultur, Geschichte in Spanien und Hispanoamerika*. Berlin: Erich Schmidt Verlag, 307-313.
- Prévost, P. (1997): *Truncation in second language acquisition*. Dissertation McGill University, Montreal, Quebec.
- Radatz, Hans-Ingo (2021): *Spanische Grammatik im Fokus. Klassische Beschreibungsprobleme aus neuer Sicht*. Berlin, Boston: de Gruyter.
- Reznicek, Mark/Lüdeling, Anke/Krummes Cedric/Schwantuschke, Franziska/Walter, Maik/Schmidt, Karin/Hirschmann, Hagen/Andreas, Torsten (2012): *Das Falko-Handbuch. Korpusaufbau und Annotationen (Version 2.01)*, Berlin: HU.
- Schlaak, Claudia (2020): „Fehlertoleranz bei und von Fremdsprachenlernern im ersten Lernjahr“, in: Veldre-Gerner, Georgia/Ossenkop, Christina (Eds.): *Fehler-Abweichung-Variation*, Frankfurt am Main: Lang, 209-224.
- Pustka, Elissa (2022): „Feldforschung in der Schule – ein Bericht aus der Forschungspraxis“, in: *Zeitschrift für Romanische Sprachen und ihre Didaktik* 16.1, 89-122.