

Cambridge University Press

978-1-107-01761-0 - First Exposure to a Second Language: Learners' Initial Input Processing

Edited by ZhaoHong Han and Rebekah Rast

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

First Exposure to a Second Language

The initial state of learner spontaneous input processing in foreign language learning, as well as the extent to which this processing leads to intake, is of central importance to theoreticians and teachers alike. In this collection of original studies, leading experts examine a range of issues, such as what learners do when faced with a language they know little or nothing about, what factors appear to mediate beginning learners' processing of input, how beginners treat two types of information – form and meaning – in the input, and how adult cognition deals with stimulus frequency at this initial stage.

This book provides a microscopic view of learners' processing of foreign language input at the early stages of learning, and evaluates a variety of methodological options within the context of *ab initio* processing of foreign languages other than English, such as German, Korean, Norwegian, Polish, and Spanish.

ZHAOHONG HAN is *Professor of Language and Education at Teachers College, Columbia University.*

REBEKAH RAST is *Associate Professor of English and Linguistics at The American University of Paris.*

Cambridge University Press

978-1-107-01761-0 - First Exposure to a Second Language: Learners' Initial Input Processing

Edited by ZhaoHong Han and Rebekah Rast

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

Cambridge University Press

978-1-107-01761-0 - First Exposure to a Second Language: Learners' Initial Input Processing

Edited by ZhaoHong Han and Rebekah Rast

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

First Exposure to a Second Language

Learners' Initial Input Processing

Edited by

ZhaoHong Han

and

Rebekah Rast



CAMBRIDGE
UNIVERSITY PRESS

Cambridge University Press

978-1-107-01761-0 - First Exposure to a Second Language: Learners' Initial Input Processing

Edited by ZhaoHong Han and Rebekah Rast

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY PRESS

University Printing House, Cambridge CB2 8BS, United Kingdom

Cambridge University Press is part of the University of Cambridge.

It furthers the University's mission by disseminating knowledge in the pursuit of education, learning and research at the highest international levels of excellence.

www.cambridge.org

Information on this title: www.cambridge.org/9781107017610

© Cambridge University Press 2014

This publication is in copyright. Subject to statutory exception and to the provisions of relevant collective licensing agreements, no reproduction of any part may take place without the written permission of Cambridge University Press.

First published 2014

Printed in the United Kingdom by Clays, St Ives plc

A catalogue record for this publication is available from the British Library

Library of Congress Cataloguing in Publication data

First exposure to a second language : learners' initial input processing / edited by ZhaoHong Han, Rebekah Rast.

pages cm

ISBN 978-1-107-01761-0 (Hardback)

1. Second language acquisition—Study and teaching. 2. Language and languages—Study and teaching. 3. Psycholinguistics. I. Han, Zhaohong— editor.

II. Rast, Rebekah— editor.

P118.2.F57 2014

418.0071—dc23 2014014933

ISBN 978-1-107-01761-0 Hardback

Cambridge University Press has no responsibility for the persistence or accuracy of URLs for external or third-party internet websites referred to in this publication, and does not guarantee that any content on such websites is, or will remain, accurate or appropriate.

Cambridge University Press

978-1-107-01761-0 - First Exposure to a Second Language: Learners' Initial Input Processing

Edited by ZhaoHong Han and Rebekah Rast

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

Contents

<i>List of figures</i>	page vii
<i>List of tables</i>	viii
<i>List of contributors</i>	x
<i>Acknowledgments</i>	xii
Introduction: First exposure, input processing, and theorizing ZHAOHONG HAN AND REBEKAH RAST	1
1 First exposure: a replication of Han and Peverly (2007) ZHAOHONG HAN AND YAYUN ANNY SUN	7
2 Learners' first exposure to written L2 input: insights from learners' spontaneous think-alouds EUN SUNG PARK	40
3 Initial processing and use of inflectional markers: evidence from French adult learners of Polish REBEKAH RAST, MARZENA WATOREK, HEATHER HILTON, AND ELLENOR SHOEMAKER	64
4 Processing 'words' in early-stage foreign language acquisition: a comparison of first exposure and low proficiency learners S. E. CARROLL	107
5 Absence of morphological transfer in beginners: evidence from eye tracking NURIA SAGARRA	139
6 The challenges of establishing spontaneous allocation of attention to meaning and form NINA MORENO	171

Cambridge University Press

978-1-107-01761-0 - First Exposure to a Second Language: Learners' Initial Input Processing

Edited by ZhaoHong Han and Rebekah Rast

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

vi Contents

Epilogue: Input processing by novices – issues in the nature of
processing and in research methods 193
BILL VANPATTEN

Index 208

Cambridge University Press

978-1-107-01761-0 - First Exposure to a Second Language: Learners' Initial Input Processing

Edited by ZhaoHong Han and Rebekah Rast

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

Figures

1.1 Gass's take on 'input to intake'	<i>page</i> 10
1.2 Processing the speech signal (Carroll 1999)	13
1.3 Between-group differences on free-recall and gap-filling tasks	22
1.4 Between-group differences (Han & Peverly 2007)	23
3.1 Distribution of correct responses on the sentence production task	83
4.1 Examples of pictures used	119
5.1a Sample trial of the SV agreement condition in the eye-tracking task	149
5.1b Sample trial of the SV disagreement condition in the eye-tracking task	150
5.2 Dependent variables used in statistical analyses	152

Cambridge University Press

978-1-107-01761-0 - First Exposure to a Second Language: Learners' Initial Input Processing

Edited by ZhaoHong Han and Rebekah Rast

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

Tables

1.1 Means and standard deviations for SQ vs. SM groups	<i>page</i> 21
1.2 ANOVA results for SQ vs. SM group differences	22
1.3 Strategies revealed through reflections on the free-recall task	24
1.4 Strategies revealed through reflection on the gap-filling task	25
1.5 Responses on the ease/difficulty of tasks	27
1.6 Means of the original study (O) versus the replication (R)	30
1.7 Strategies used by participants in Han and Peverly (2007)	31
2.1 Input marking results	49
2.2 Think-aloud results	51
2.3 Verbalizations of 'nominal suffixes'	52
2.4 Items verbalized but not captured by the input marking results	54
3.1 Case marking in the Polish test stimuli	71
3.2 Elicited items in the sentence production task, indicating frequency and transparency	79
3.3 Mean accuracy scores on the grammaticality judgment task in three time intervals and as a function of Presence in the input, Transparency and Grammaticality	81
3.4 Group results, indicators of individual differences	86
3.5 Significant Spearman rank correlations between scores obtained on measures of individual differences and Polish task performance	88
4.1 Performance on the training trials, number of trials to criterion, test, re-test1, re-test2 by first exposure and beginner L2 learners	125
4.2 Performance on all target items categorized by input properties of questions	127
4.3 Means of response latencies on semantically transparent (T) and opaque (O) compound names of first exposure and beginner L2 learners by measure	130
5.1 Descriptive statistics for the cognitive tests	147
5.2 Descriptive statistics for the reading data	153
5.3 Descriptive statistics for the picture data	154
5.4 Inferential statistics for the reading data: monolingual analyses	155

Cambridge University Press

978-1-107-01761-0 - First Exposure to a Second Language: Learners' Initial Input Processing

Edited by ZhaoHong Han and Rebekah Rast

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

List of tables	ix
5.5 Inferential statistics for the reading data: monolingual-learner analyses	155
5.6 Inferential statistics for the picture data: monolingual analyses	156
5.7 Inferential statistics for the picture data: monolingual-learner analyses	156

Cambridge University Press

978-1-107-01761-0 - First Exposure to a Second Language: Learners' Initial Input Processing

Edited by ZhaoHong Han and Rebekah Rast

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

Contributors

DR. S. E. CARROLL is Professor at University of Calgary, Canada. Her research interests include the role and nature of input in second language acquisition and mechanisms driving its processing. She is the author of *Input and Evidence: The Raw Material of Second Language Acquisition* (2000).

DR. ZHAOHONG HAN is Professor at Teachers College, Columbia University, USA. Her co-authored paper with Stephen Peverly, entitled "Input Processing: A Study of Ab Initio Learners" (2007), has stimulated considerable interest in the field in researching input processing at the earliest stage of second language acquisition.

DR. HEATHER HILTON is Professor at the Université Paris 8, France. Her research interests include memory and processing issues in second language acquisition, the impact of individual variables in L2 learning, and the pedagogical implications of acquisition research in the foreign language classroom.

DR. NINA MORENO is Associate Professor at University of South Carolina, USA. Her research interests include input processing and the role of consciousness in learning and instruction.

DR. EUN SUNG PARK is Associate Professor at Sogang University, Korea. Her research interests are in second language input processing and instructional strategies promoting learner attention.

DR. REBEKAH RAST is Associate Professor at the American University of Paris, and a member of the Laboratoire Structures Formelles du Langage (UMR 7023/CNRS), France. Her research interests include second and third language acquisition, in particular the earliest stages, and the interface between language acquisition and teaching. She is the author of *Foreign Language Input: Initial Processing* (2008).

DR. NURIA SAGARRA is Associate Professor at Rutgers University, USA. Her research straddles the domains of cognitive science, linguistics, and second

Cambridge University Press

978-1-107-01761-0 - First Exposure to a Second Language: Learners' Initial Input Processing

Edited by ZhaoHong Han and Rebekah Rast

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

List of contributors

xi

language acquisition, seeking to identify what factors explain adults' difficulty learning the morphosyntax of a foreign language, with the aim of informing linguistic and cognitive models, as well as instructional practices. She investigates these topics using self-paced reading, eye tracking, and more recently, event-related potentials.

DR. ELLENOR SHOEMAKER is Associate Professor at the Université Sorbonne Nouvelle and a member of the Laboratoire de Phonétique et Phonologie (UMR 7018/CNRS) in Paris, France. Her research interests include the acquisition of second language phonology as well as the perception and segmentation of continuous speech in a second language.

YAYUN ANNY SUN is currently a doctoral student in applied linguistics at Teachers College, Columbia University. Her areas of interest include input processing in adult second language acquisition, especially the role of linguistic redundancy in adult learners' processing of input.

DR. BILL VANPATTEN is Professor at Michigan State University, USA. His research interests include input and input processing in second language acquisition (SLA) and the interface of SLA and second language instruction. He is the author of *Input Processing and Grammar Instruction: Theory and Research* (1996).

DR. MARZENA WATOREK is Professor at the Université Paris 8 and a member of the Laboratoire Structures Formelles du Langage (UMR 7023/CNRS), France. Her research focuses on comparative approaches in second language acquisition, in particular the phenomena of discourse production in first and second language acquisition relative to cross-linguistic influence and age factors.

Cambridge University Press

978-1-107-01761-0 - First Exposure to a Second Language: Learners' Initial Input Processing

Edited by ZhaoHong Han and Rebekah Rast

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

Acknowledgments

This volume was based in part on a colloquium convened at Georgetown University Roundtable (GURT) 2009. We thank all the contributors to the colloquium and those who contributed to the present volume for their inspiration and cooperation. We also would like to thank Eun Young Kang for her bibliographic assistance. This book would not have been possible without the support of Cambridge University Press. We are particularly grateful to Helen Barton, Helena Dowson, and their team for their encouragement, attention, and understanding. Working with them was a pleasant and educational experience.