



A TOOL TO EVALUATE FRENCH GRAMMATICAL SPELLING SKILLS FOR NATIVE ADULTS

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INTRODUCTION

French morphology leads to most of spelling mistakes. The point of my study is to understand why we make them.

- ▶ Aim of the dissertation is to conceive a tool that would enhance efficiency in remediation classes of French Literacy for adults (typically students at university)
- ▶ Results also allow linguistic skills description

PRESENTATION OUTLINE

I. Defining the object

1. French inflectional morphology
2. Grammatical spelling

II. What kind of task?

1. Combination of tests
2. What about the other kinds of data?

III. Linguistic control of the items

1. Control of the agreement receiver's features
2. Control of the linguistic context

- I. DEFINING THE OBJECT (1/2)
 - II. WHAT KIND OF TASK?
 - III. LINGUISTIC CONTROL OF THE ITEMS
-

FRENCH INFLECTIONAL MORPHOLOGY

« describes form variations of words according to their number, gender, person, etc. » (Riegel, Pellat, Rioul, 2014 : 38)

Ex.

NOUN: *devoir* (singular) / *devoirs* (plural) - *duty/duties*

ADJECTIVE: *joli* (masculin) / *jolie* (feminin) - *pretty*

VERB: *chante* (1st and 3rd person singular) / *chantes* (2nd person singular) - *sing*

- ▶ causes most of spelling errors (Lucci, Millet, 1994)
- ▶ mostly silent: morphograms (Dubois, 1965 ; Catach, 1986)
- ▶ more specifically: grammatical morphograms (Catach, 1986)

- I. DEFINING THE OBJECT (2/2)
 - II. WHAT KIND OF TASK?
 - III. LINGUISTIC CONTROL OF THE ITEMS
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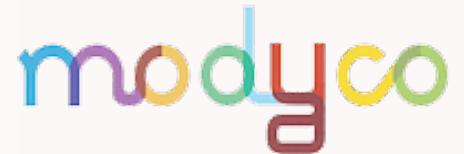
GRAMMATICAL SPELLING = AGREEMENT

« transfer of those traits in the context of a sentence » (Gauvin, 2011 : 57)

Ex. *La marée haute monte rapidement / The high tide rises quickly*

The NOUN « marée » gives a gender trait to the ADJECTIVE « haute »
The VERB « monte » receives the person and the number traits from
the SUBJECT « marée »

- ▶ dynamic aspect of spelling
- ▶ involves a word that gives the agreement traits and words that receive them
- ▶ follows a set list of well defined rules



WHAT KIND OF TASK?

1. Combination of tests
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-

COMBINATION OF TESTS

- ✓ Linguistic control of the items
- ✓ Data comparability
- ✓ Induce automatism errors with cognitive load
- ✓ Specifically target of the knowledge deficiency and procedure mistakes

6 tasks:

- ▶ Recall of a whole sentence (Fayol, Largy, 1992)
- ▶ Secondary task paradigm (Fayol, Got, 1991)
- ▶ Revision task (mistake detection)
- ▶ Grammatical analysis (label functions and categories)
- ▶ Link between the words that give and receive the agreement
- ▶ Mistake reproduction (Gaux, Gombert, 1999)

- I. DEFINING THE OBJECT
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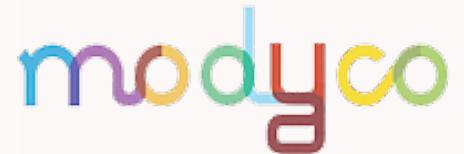
WHAT ABOUT OTHER KINDS OF DATA?

Authentic productions corpora?

- ✓ Analysis the performances in real conditions
- ✓ Variety of types of text and writing situations
- * What causes the error?
 - Declarative knowledge deficiency? (metalanguage, rule...)
 - Procedural mistake?
- * Limited control of the linguistic items
- * Data comparability?

Verbalisations?

- ✓ Procedure used, explaining declarative knowledge
- * Limits of the metacognition: automatic procedures are not conscious



LINGUISTIC CONTROL OF THE ITEMS

1. Control of the agreement receiver's features
2. Control of the linguistic context

- I. DEFINING THE OBJECT
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-

CONTROL OF THE AGREEMENT RECEIVER'S FEATURES

- ▶ 6 grammatical categories of the receiver
 - ▶ NOUN
 - ▶ ADJECTIVE
 - ▶ VERB - simple form
 - ▶ PAST PARTICIPLE
 - ▶ ADVERB and INFINITIVE VERB: inhibition of the agreement
- ▶ Homophony
 - yes vs. no (Largy, Fayol, 1996)
 - NOUN / VERB and ADJECTIVE / ADVERB
- ▶ Frequency of other inflected form > Frequency of the target item using Lexique Corpora (New, Pallier, Ferrand, Matos, 2001)
- ▶ Highest Frequency (Lusson, 2013)

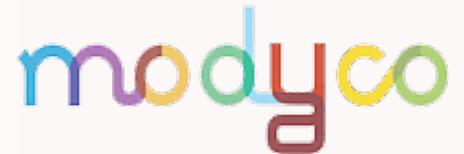
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-

CONTROL OF THE LINGUISTIC CONTEXT

Agreement contexts:

- ▶ distance between words giving and receiving agreement traits
- ▶ inversion of their order
- ▶ « screen » word semantically likely to give the agreement traits (Fayol, Got, 1991)
- ▶ « screen » that would induce another grammatical interpretation of homophone : « les » + verb homophone with noun (Fayol, Pacton, 2005)
- ▶ optimal configuration: adjacent words
- ▶ PAST PARTICIPLE agreement: inhibition of the AUXILIARY as a pivot (Jaffré, Bessonnat, 1993)

N.B. Length of sentences < 40 syllables (Fillenbaum 1966 ; Sachs 1967)



PRELIMINARY RESULTS

Let's meet again during the poster session!

THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION!

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