

English If-clauses in the Interlanguage (IL) of Moroccan EFL University Students

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The present work attempts to investigate if-clauses in the interlanguage of EFL Moroccan university students. It particularly aims at describing their grammatical knowledge, exploring the impact of their instructional level and, last, attempting to determine task types influence on the order of the acquisition of the investigated structures, namely factual conditionals, predictive conditionals, hypothetical conditionals and counterfactual conditionals.

The findings reported give support to the adopted hypotheses. First, the 'predictive' conditional is the first learned by the subjects, being the unmarked type among the three taught types. High level students prove to be better learners in all basic conditional types. Last, task types are found influential, as subjects did better in comprehension task than in production tasks. Moreover, 'real' conditionals are better produced than comprehended. And, 'unreal' conditionals are better comprehended than produced.

The implications reported are numerous and revolve around key issues: students' need, variety in tasks, gradation and sequencing, context, authenticity of the examples, communicative syllabus, etc.

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The Morphology and Syntax of Guyanese Creole (Creolese)

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Guyanese Creole is a language with a high level of variability, induced by ongoing contact with English, the language from which it historically borrowed the bulk of its vocabulary. This variation has been described as representing a continuum between 'basilectal' GC at one end and 'acrolectal' Guyanese English (GE) at the other. The position taken here is that this so-called continuum is made up of a restricted number of varieties produced by a constrained mixing of features from the 'acrolect' and 'basilect'. There are, as well, features peculiar to the intermediate level referred to as the 'mesolect'. This description will focus on those language varieties referred to by speakers as 'Creolese', i.e. those varieties closest to the 'basilect'.

The language situation and a brief socio-historical survey of GC will be presented. This will be followed by a phonological overview of the language. The Morphology and Syntax of the language will be treated in individual sections. The work will use varieties which are considered to be the least influenced by the structures of Guyanese English (GE). Reference will, however, be made to the intermediate varieties, where this would shed additional light on the structures of 'basilectal' GE being analysed. The overall thrust of the description is to represent the language from the perspective of a naive native speaker. Linguistic universals and notions of grammaticalisation are employed as tools which seek to capture this language internal perspective. This should be a grammar which is useful both to the linguist seeking a description which is insightful and backed by supporting evidence, as well as by native speakers who have an interest in their own language.

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