

A study on the acquisition of the English structures with direct and indirect objects by UEF students

BUI THI THUY QUYEN

HCMC University of Economics and Finance

Submitted: May 28, 2021 - Accepted: July 01, 2021

Abstract:

Studies on the acquisition of the English dative alternations have been carried a lot by researchers, and the results show that these structures are uneasy for non-native learners of English, especially for young and low-level learners. The current study aims to investigate English dative alternation in which the markedness of two structures of dative alternation are [_NP PP] and [_NP NP], 'for'- and 'to'-dative verbs among first-year students whose first language (L1) is Vietnamese and second language (L2) is English. The data collected from two grammar tests showed that [_NP PP] structure is easier for Vietnamese learners of English. Besides, forty Vietnamese participants from UEF in the study tend to use the preposition 'for' instead of 'to' with dative verbs in most prepositional dative structures in the test.

Keywords: *Dative alternations, dative verbs, marked, unmarked.*