

On-line Alumni Surveys as a Part of English Needs and Usage Analysis

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In 2012 Sophia University initiated a new center for language teaching and research. One of the center's primary areas of responsibility is the teaching of mandatory English classes. As part of the initial planning this new center, a research group undertook an extensive on-line alumni survey to gather data on how Sophia graduates from the past twenty years were using English privately and professionally. Although on-line surveys are regularly employed as research tools in other fields, their use is relatively new in doing second-language needs analysis in Japan. Using alumni data to improve academic programs is also a relatively new phenomenon. First, an extensive literature review of language needs and usage analysis in Japan and abroad, as well as alumni surveys in university program development was completed to develop an initial set of survey questions. In the interim, the research group worked closely with the university alumni office to deal with some of the significant challenges of the research project: privacy concerns, publicity, and response rate. The survey was then digitized and piloted again. The on-line survey site was finally opened to alumni in mid December; the survey will finish at the beginning of March. Because the survey has been delivered on line, real time data of survey results is available and some initial observations can be made. A significant percentage of respondents currently working are using English at work (43%), and using English in a productive capacity. More than 30% were making presentations or lectures at work in English at least once a month. More than 50% reported using English with clients or external partner least once a month. A little over 60% of respondents reported writing documents in English at least once a month.

Day 2

Degrees of Similarity between Lexical Items in Native-speaker and those in Non-native-speaker English Mental Lexicons

母語話者と第二言語話者の英語心内辞書における語彙項目間類似度の比較

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本研究は、英語母語話者(NS)と第二言語話者(NNS)の英語心内辞書における語彙項目間類似度の違いを解明することを目的とする。なお、第二言語話者は、英語語彙サイズの異なる2群 (LARGE群とSMALL群) から成る日本人英語学習者を取り上げる。NS群とNNS群間で、またNNS群については語彙サイズの違いにより、英語心内辞書内の語彙項目ペアの類似度に違いがあると予想される。これは、心内辞書内の語彙構造に関する先行研究が、NSの方がNNSよりも語彙項目間の結び付きを見出する割合が高く (Wilks & Meara, 2002)、第二言語の習熟度の高いNNSの方が低いNNSよりも結び付きを多く見出す (Wilks & Meara, 2007) と報告しており、語彙構造における個々の語彙項目間の類似度についても同様の違いがあると考えられることに拠る。本研究の被験者は各群30人 (日本人英語学習者は熊本県内3大学の1年生~3年生) であった。The Vocabulary Size Test (Nation & Beglar, 2007) の結果から、LARGE群の平均語彙サイズは6273.3語、SMALL群は4683.3語で、両群の語彙サイズは1%水準で有意に異なった。主データ収集には英単語仕分け課題を採用した。被験者は与えられたJACET8000のレベル1の英語動詞50語を自分が考える意味のまとまりにグループ分けした。収集した主データの計算から得られた群デンドログラム距離行列における語彙項目間類似度の解析から、極めて類似度が高い語彙項目ペアの頻度には3群間に明確な違いは検出されなかった。一方、高い類似度の単語ペアで