Cross-linguistic influence in the connector usage in Finnish learners’ L3 Swedish
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Connectors combine words, phrases and sentences in a discourse (Nyström 2001), and belong to function words. De Angelis (2007: 47) points out that further research about the CLI is still needed in case of function words other than pronouns. Moreover, the connectors have not been studied much before from a language learning perspective (Carlsen 2010). Especially the usage of connectors in Swedish has been the theme of only a few previous studies.

The aim of this paper is to study the transfer processes in the connector usage in Finnish learners’ L3 Swedish. My research questions are as follows:

1) What is the primary source of cross-linguistic influence in connector usage (L1 or L2)?
2) Do L1 and L2 have different roles in the transfer process?
3) Are certain connectors more likely to be transferred than others?

It will also be investigated if the results are supported by Paradis’ (2009) hypothesis that function words would be transferred from L2s.

Narrative and argumentative texts written by Finnish learners who are approximately 13–18 years of age and whose language proficiency is between levels A1–B1 according to the CEFR will be used as material. The material is part of the project Topling – Paths in Second Language Acquisition at the University of Jyväskylä in Finland.

References


Keywords: Swedish as a third language, third language acquisition, connectors.