Motivational inclinations of L2 self: Promotion and prevention focus

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Ideal and ought L2 selves function as ultimate goals of L2 learning (Dörnyei, 2009). In terms of the motivational process that drives the achievement of goals, the L2 selves may evoke different motivational tendencies: promotion and prevention focus (Higgins, 1998). Whereas promotion focus involves sensitivity to positive outcomes and approach inclination toward the goal, prevention focus involves sensitivity to negative outcomes and avoidance inclination away from negative outcomes. In L2 research, Taguchi et al. (2009) found that promotion- and prevention-instrumentality are related to ideal and ought L2 selves respectively. However, given that promotion and prevention focus represent general motivational movement, application of the concept could be broader. The objectives of this study are 1) to explore promotion and prevention dimensions in broader L2 context 2) to develop and validate the measures of L2 promotion and prevention constructs and 3) to investigate relationship between types of L2 self and motivation. Vietnamese university students studying Korean as a second language completed an open-ended questionnaire for L2 selves and a Likert-scale questionnaire for L2 promotion and prevention. PCA (n =276) and CFA (n =257) will be conducted for the L2 promotion and prevention measures. At more exploratory level, a correlation between thematic types of L2 selves and L2 promotion and prevention will be conducted.

References

Keywords: L2 self, promotion and prevention focus, motivation.