CHOICE AND USE OF ENGLISH VERB TENSES IN THE BLOGS OF NATIVE

SPEAKERS OF ENGLISH AND JAPANESE EFL LEARNERS

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ABSTRACT

The Japanese, who were once monolinguals, are very much aware of the significance of learning the English language in the rapid globalization of the world. However, it is a fact that their writing skill is still distinguishable as “non-native-like”, particularly in their choices of verb tense. Therefore, the purpose of this study is to examine the difference in the choice and use of verb tenses in the blogs written by NSE and Japanese EFL(English as foreign language) learners and the reasons of these differences.

In this study, three research questions will be answered: (1) Which verb tenses are frequently used by (a) NSE and (b) Japanese EFL learners in their blogs? (2) What are the differences between NSE bloggers’ and Japanese EFL bloggers’ use of verb tenses? (3) Why do these differences emerge? This study uses qualitative approach. The sources of data for analysis to answer the above questions are the blogs from ten NSE bloggers and ten Japanese EFL bloggers.

The findings of this study showed some differences between the frequency of use of Present Simple, and Past Continuous and Present Perfect, and those differences emerged because of choice of prototype verb tense, the language interference and difference in English language proficiency of Japanese EFL learners.