Evaluation of written texts by Japanese university students: is comparison with French equivalents possible?

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Twofold motivation

• As a teacher of English
  Evaluation of progress in students’ writing ability

• As a (corpus-based/driven) linguist
  Similarity/difference in F and E linking devices
Development of Textbook  
(Academic skills in English)

- Hirokazu Yokokawa (Kobe University)
- Tim Greer (Kobe University)
- Masayuki Murakami (Kyoto University of Foreign Studies)
- Mitsumi Uchida (Osaka Prefecture University)
- Mari Yamauchi (Kobe Kaisei College)

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Development of Textbook
(Academic skills in English)

Each of the 10 units consists of

- Sound focus
- Language skills
- IT skills
- Communication sheets
Communication sheets

Pair work activity

• A interviews B (5mns)
• B interviews A (5mns)
• summary writing (10mns)
For evaluation of writing ability

- written texts by 39 university students
- Topic: recent changes in lifestyles
- L1: Japanese (38), Korean (1)
- before and after the 4-month term
- stored in FilemakerPro

*analysis yet to be done*
FR–EN comparison

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• “Consequential” participial construction
• Copula + infinitive construction
• Deverbal linking devices
FR–EN comparison

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- “Consequential” participial construction
- Copula + infinitive construction
- Deverbal linking devices
“Consequential” participial construction

Uchida (2002) in Saito et al. (eds.) Rodopi

Four years ago, the natural protection along the river was “cleared away”..., giving rise to the danger of overflow....

Après que la rivière ait été, il y a quatre ans, <<nettoyée>> de la végétation ..., entraînant de ce fait l’exposition des sols....

Data: JOC corpus
"Consequential" participial construction

Uchida (2002) in Saito et al. (eds.) Rodopi

The remaining Portuguese officials are employed at surprisingly low grades for their number of years of service, placing them at a disadvantage.

Les autre fonctionnaires portugais sont, bizarrement, mal classés..., ce qui les place dans une situation discriminatoire.

Data: JOC corpus
Copula + infinitive construction

Uchida and Yanagi (2004)
in Nakamura et al. (eds.) Rodopi

An increase in . . . is to be expected.
Il est à souhaiter . . .

Data: Hansard (LDC)
Copula + infinitive construction

Uchida and Yanagi (2004) in Nakamura et al. (eds.) Rodopi

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>be to construction</th>
<th>être à construction</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>active</strong> in form</td>
<td>active meaning “necessity/futurity”</td>
<td>active progressive OR passive “necessity/futurity”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>passive</strong> in form</td>
<td>passive meaning “necessity/futurity”</td>
<td>NA</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
Copula + infinitive construction

Uchida and Yanagi (2004)
in Nakamura et al. (eds.) Rodopi

What is to be done about it?
Que peut-on y faire?

Data: Hansard (LDC)
Deverbal linking devices

• from present participles
  EN: during, following, concerning, providing, including
  FR: concernant, devant, durant, pendant, suivant

• from past participles
  EN: provided, included, except
  FR: y compris, non compris, excepté
Deverbal linking devices

Uchida (2004) EURALEX

EN: including vs. FR: y compris

Data: CRATER2 + some texts from Gutenberg

Uchida (2005) in Iyeiri (ed) J. Benjamins

EN: including vs. except

Data: WordbanksOnline
Twofold motivation

• As a teacher of English
  How to analyse the data

• As a (corpus-based/driven) linguist
  Errors made by F1-French learners of English
  Comments/Advise by F1-French and other researchers/teachers/speakers of English/French
References


