Second Language Acquisition Research: Issues And Implications

William C Ritchie

In order to address the issue on the accuracy-based criteria, the emergence criterion, which identifies the point of first emergence of a structure in an interlanguage system (Pienemann, 2005, p.54), was developed by Meisel, Clahsen, and Pienemann (1981). As the emergence criterion has been applied in much L2 research based on PT 3 (e.g., Pienemann, 1998; Di Biase and Kawaguchi, 2002), the current study also considers the first emergence of plural maker -s and NP plural agreement as the acquisition points of those structures. More detailed description of PT-based analysis is provided in the Interlanguage fossilization is a phenomenon of second language acquisition (SLA) in which second language learners turn linguistic features that are correct in their first language into permanent errors in the way they speak and write the new language. In other words, they develop and retain their own, personal linguistic system that is self-contained and different from both their first language and the target language. Such a linguistic system has been variously called an interlanguage, approximative