

Aural You Crazy? Revisiting Leow et al. (2008) in the Aural Mode

Previous research investigating VanPatten's (1990) claims about learners' abilities to processing linguistic form and meaning has been conducted in both the aural and written modes (Greenslade, Bouden, and Sanz, 1999; Wong, 2001). As a whole, these studies were inconclusive about whether participants were able to attend to differential linguistic items and comprehend a passage simultaneously. Leow, Hsieh, and Moreno's (2008) replication of VanPatten in the written mode built upon the previous studies by operationalizing for depth of processing (DOP) through online, concurrent think-aloud protocols. Leow et al. and later replications (Morgan-Short, Heil, Botero-Moriarty, and Ebert, 2012) showed no effect for attending to differential linguistic form on comprehension and that participants who attended to forms more deeply evidenced higher comprehension scores.

The current study joins the conversation by investigating the effects of differential linguistic item (syntactic vs lexical) on comprehension during a listening task. Intermediate L2 Spanish learners ($N=16$) listened to a passage while attending to meaning and syntactic / lexical target items or meaning only. Afterwards, participants completed a multiple-choice test for comprehension. To operationalize for participants levels of DOP, according to Leow et al. (2008) and Morgan-Short et al. (2012), the present study employed offline, concurrent write-alouds designed to elicit manifestations of processing, unobtrusively, throughout the aural task. Participants wrote their thoughts about the passage after each sentence. No studies before the current one have used write-alouds as a means to operationalize DOP. Results from this study lend further evidences to Leow et al. (2008), showing that attending to differential linguistic item has no effect on comprehension across modalities. Additionally, analysis of the participant write-alouds shows that write-alouds allow for the elicitation of the levels of DOP discussed in previous research.

Selected References

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