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Investigation into the use of corpora in L2 teaching and learning in Vietnamese classroom of English

Raise/Rise and Since/For

Abstract

The purpose of this study is to investigate the use of corpora, with a specific focus on the concordances in teaching and learning English as a foreign language (L2) in classrooms in Vietnam. The main research question is to study if a teaching methodology based on the concordance samples is more efficient than traditional foreign language teaching in Vietnam that mainly based on rules in books or dictionaries (that are not always authentic). The concordance samples provide L2 teachers and students with information about the different patterns of use and structure that can be found for each word. As a first experience in that respect, the author has designed a new kind of linguistics exercise on the basis of the selected list of concordances samples, mainly from the British National Corpus (BNC). This kind of exercise was first used experimentally in an English lecture at Cantho University-Vietnam for 40 freshmen in English Pedagogy. A grammatical part with the pairs *Raise/ Rise* and *Since/ For* aim to teach how to distinguish the uses of these words. In order to evaluate the differences in using constructions with the appliance of concordances or not while doing these exercises, the teacher divided the students into two groups: one was using concordances, one not. The students from the second group who used concordances, obtained more correct answers than those from the first group, who did not, and the second group could develop activeness in exploring the word structures and rules. In some aspects, this increases both teachers and students' sensitivity to words, patterns, structures and encourages them to formulate hypotheses about language. The research has shown out the recent reformation in .English learning and teaching in the classroom with the use and application of concordances There is also the discussion on the challenges of using corpora in foreign language teaching and learning. This investigation to some extent could see concordances' theory and practice give interesting pedagogical insights, which teachers as well as learners in Vietnam can increase the efficiency in teaching and learning English grammar.