

DEPARTMENT OF
SECOND LANGUAGE STUDIES

* French: Etudes de langue seconde *

SLS HOME

ADMISSIONS

DEGREES

COURSES

FACULTY

- Abe
- Bardovi-Harlig
- Darcy
- deJong
- Dekydtspotter
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- Friedman
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MEET THE FACULTY

Laurent Dekydtspotter

- Professor, Second Language Studies and French and Italian

Education

- Ph.D. Linguistics, Cornell University, Ithaca, New York
- M.A. TESOL/Applied Linguistics Washington State University, Pullman Washington
- B.A. English. Université Catholique de l'Ouest Angers, France



Contact Information

Indiana University

Ballantine Hall 611

Bloomington, IN 47405

(812) 855-2221 ldekydts@indiana.edu

Areas of Research

(Development of) interpretive knowledge: phrasal semantics, lexical semantics and grammatically computed pragmatic inferences. Sentence processing: information integration in L2 processing.

Personal Statement

Professor Dekydtspotter's primary research foci lie in the degrees to which second language learners can acquire sentence types that are not grammatical in the learner's native language as well as with the precise manner in which second language perceivers in various stages of development go about interpreting sentences of the target language input, with special interest in the integration of information from various domains: context, pragmatics, prosody, semantics and syntax.

The reason for the focus on semantics is that not all ways of combining words together have the same semantic consequences. Aspects of one's semantic intuitions results from the precise way in which one goes about putting the sentence together. In fact, interpretive research developed at IU suggests that L2 learners develop grammars that are in the same range as native systems.

The reason for the second focus on processing is that not all ways of combining information together have the same consequences for language understanding. In a string of experiments, I have investigated the extent to which context can override syntactic information in the manner in which L2 learners perceive sentences. Our research so far found a deep syntactic reflex in second language acquirers of French, at the low intermediate proficiency level and beyond. This threatens the notion that L2 perceivers do not process sentences as deeply as natives, relying on lexical and contextual information

instead.

Courses Recently Taught

- French Syntax, French Phonology, French Semantics, Acquisition of French

Publication Highlights

Dekydtspotter, L. & A. K. Miller. (2013). Inhibitive and facilitative priming induced by traces in the processing of *wh*-dependencies in a second language. *Second Language Research*, 29, (currently available at OnlineFirst, doi: 10.1177/0267658312467030)

Dekydtspotter, L., Wang, Y.-T., Kim, B., Kim, H.-J., Kim, H.-K. & Lee, J.-K. (2012). Anaphora under Reconstruction during Processing in English as a Second Language. *Studies in Second Language Acquisition*, 34, 561-590.

Darcy, I., Dekydtspotter, L., Sprouse, R. A., Scott, J. H. G., Glover, J., McGuire, M., & Kaden, C. (2012). Direct Mapping of Acoustics to Phonology: On the lexical encoding of front round vowels in L1 English-L2 French acquisition. *Second Language Research*, 28, 1-36.

Dekydtspotter, Laurent (2009) Second Language Epistemology, Take Two. *Studies in Second Language Acquisition*, 31, 291-321.

Dekydtspotter, Laurent & Claire Renaud. (2009) On the

contrastive analysis of features in second language acquisition: Uninterpretable gender on past participles in English-French processing. *Second Language Research*, 25, 251-263.

Dekydtspotter, Laurent, Bryan Donaldson, Amanda C. Edmonds, Audrey Liljestrang Fultz & Rebecca A. Petrush (2008) Syntax and prosodic computations in the resolution of relative clause attachment ambiguity by English-French learners. *Studies in Second Language Acquisition*, 30, 453-480.

Dekydtspotter, Laurent, Rex A. Sprouse & Audrey Liljestrang (eds.) (2005), *Proceedings of Generative Approaches to Second Language Acquisition (GASLA) 7*, Somerville, MA: Cascadilla Press.

Dekydtspotter, Laurent, Rex A. Sprouse & Thaddeus G. Meyer. (2005) Was für N interrogatives and quantifier scope in English-German interpretation. In Laurent Dekydtspotter, Rex A. Sprouse & Audrey Liljestrang (eds.), *Proceedings of Generative Approaches to Second Language Acquisition (GASLA) 7*, Somerville, MA: Cascadilla Press.

Dekydtspotter, Laurent, Bonnie D. Schwartz, Rex A. Sprouse & Audrey Liljestrang (2005) Evidence for the C-domain in early Interlanguage. In Susan Foster-Cohen Maríadel Pilar Garcia-Mayo and Jasone Cenoz, (eds.), (pp. 7-34) *EUROSLA Yearbook 5*, John Benjamins Publishing Company.

Dekydtspotter, Laurent and Jon Hathorn (2005) Quelque chose (...) de remarquable in English-French Acquisition: Mandatory, Informationally Encapsulated Computations in Second Language Interpretation. *Second Language Research* 21: 291-323.

Dekydtspotter, Laurent and Samantha Outcalt (2005) A Syntactic Bias in Scope Ambiguity Resolution in the Processing of English-French Cardinality Interrogatives: Evidence for Informational Encapsulation. *Language Learning*, 1: 1-37.