Abstract

This article surveys and describes Japanese EFL learners’ relative familiarity with twelve canonical event schemata with sentence structures through a JEFLL Corpus analysis. The results of a 4-gram analysis show that learners tend to use SV, SVC, and SVO structures in six timed essays compared with other structures (e.g. SVOO, SVOC etc.). Furthermore, correspondence analysis reveals that learners are mainly familiar with Occurrence schema with copula-based SVC (e.g. be), Self-motion schema with SV (e.g. go), Possession schema with SVO (e.g. have), and Emotion schema with SVO (e.g. like). These results suggest that on the basis of four familiar verbs and their verb patterns, low and intermediate learners at the Japanese university level should enrich their productive verb patterns.