Written Corrective Feedback

A Case Study

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July 2015

The Learner

Introduction

What is second language acquisition (SLA)?

What is written corrective feedback (WCF)?

What does the research on WCF say?

What is the case study about?

X | He take the bus.

Gr | He take the bus.

He take_ the bus.

Gr | He take_ the bus.

He take**s** the bus.

He take_ the bus.

You should agree the verb with the subject. In the 3rd person singular, the verb takes –s.

He take**s** the bus.

Participants (n=86)

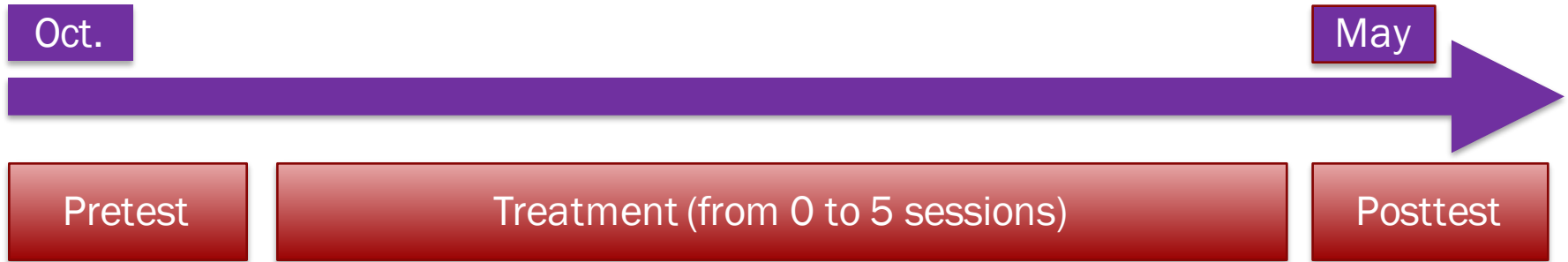n=17   n=19   n=21   n=10   n=19

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He take_ the bus.   (n=30)

He takes the bus.   (n=30)

He take_ the bus. + explanations (n=26)

Study Design

Oct.

May

Pretest

Treatment (from 0 to 5 sessions)

Posttest

TREATMENT

1. The researcher corrects each student's text and select 10 errors.
2. The teacher grades the texts.
3. The students get their text back and the treatment session begins. They all have to state whether they understand each of the 10 errors. If they do,
   1. the students in group 1 (underlining) correct and explain it;
   2. the students in group 2 (direct correction) explain it;
   3. The students in group 3 (explanations) correct it.
4. When they are done with their 10 errors, the students can ask the researcher or their teacher any question they want.

Results and Discussion

Gain in points between the pretest and the posttest

	n	mean	sd	median	min	max
underlining	30	1.78	3.98	2	-6	9.5
direct correction	30	1.73	3.61	2.5	-6.5	8
explanations	26	-0.28	3.93	0	-8.5	8.5

Mean in points at the pretest by correction type

	n	mean	sd	median	min	max
underlining	30	16.73	4.88	16.75	9	27
direct correction	30	19.12	5.72	18.75	9.5	30
explanations	26	18.25	3.64	17.5	14	28

A Close Look at a Few Errors

—**WCF Type:** underlining
—**Error:** [...] happened *[] me [...]
—**Did you understand your error?:** Yes
—**Correction:** /
—**Explanation:** I know I forgot the preposition but I don't know which one

—**WCF Type:** direct correction
—**Error:** To learn Italian, we had a good *planning
—**Did you understand your error?:** Yes
—**Correction:** a good plan
—**Explanation:** I have to use the infinitive.

—**WCF Type:** direct correction
—**Error:** It began *rain.
—**Did you understand your error?:** Yes
—**Correction:** It began raining.
—**Explanation:** It is a long-lasting act, not a short one.

—**WCF Type:** explanations
—**Error:** They *learned [...]
—**Did you understand your error?:** Yes
—**Correction:** They teached [...]
—**Explanation:** - learn = apprendre
- teach = enseigner (= apprendre à qqun)

—WCF Type: underlining
—Error: You must *heard
—Did you understand your error?: Yes
—Correction: You must to heard
—Explanation: I must use an infinitive, I forgot "to".

—WCF Type: underlining
—Error: *an advice
—Did you understand your error?: Yes
—Correction: a advice
—Explanation: wrong determiner

— **WCF Type:** underlining
— **Error:** all cars were eletric cars or *hybrid (place)
— **Did you understand your error?:** No
— **Correction:** I'm talking about hybrid cars, not about a place
— **Explanation:** You've made a mistake

— **WCF Type:** direct correction
— **Error:** Why approve *[] this idea?
— **Did you understand your error?:** Yes
— **Correction:** Why approve of this idea?
— **Explanation:** Indication

THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION