

The Conceptualisation of Dynamic Space in Italian, German, and Italian as Foreign Languages

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Abstract

This work aims at adding to the studies of Typological Linguistics, Contrastive Linguistics, and Acquisitional Linguistics, contributing, at the same time, to the debate on the relationship between language and cognition both in mother tongue and foreign language.

The main objective is the analysis of the conceptualisation of dynamic space in Italian L1, German L1 and Italian L2 of German-speaking learners living in Germany. So, the study aims to analyse the spatial conceptualisation in the oral expression of three groups of informants: Italian speakers in L1, German speakers in L1 and German speakers in Italian L2.

The main objectives of the contribution are: 1. typological, because the aim is to identify the type of behaviour of Italophones and Germanophones in relation to the conceptualisation of dynamic space, with reference to the

classification of world languages initially proposed by Talmy (1985, 1991, 2000) and refined by Slobin (1996, 2004, 2006); 2. contrastive, as the two languages are compared, highlighting their similar features and especially their divergent ones; 3. acquisitional, as special attention is paid to the linguistic productions of German-speaking learners in Italian L2.

Keywords

dynamic space, typology, Italian, German, second language acquisition