

Project: Developing an Intelligent Tool for Computer-Assisted Formulaic Sequence Learning from YouTube Videos

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Abstract:

The world's first computer-assisted formulaic language learning tool IdiomsTube was developed and launched in November 2018. This report presents the tool and reports on the findings of an experiment conducted to investigate the effectiveness of the tool for facilitating formulaic language learning through viewing YouTube videos. Sixty-seven local university students were randomly assigned to 5 groups to learn L2 English formulaic sequences through YouTube videos with the aid of IdiomsTube (Lin, in preparation). Knowledge gains in the onehour session were analysed in conjunction with subjects' in-app behaviour (e.g. time on task, clicks on hyperlinks to dictionaries). Results indicate that L2 formulaic language knowledge gain was significantly higher when aided by IdiomsTube's automatically generated learning tasks (i.e. glossary, glosses and cloze exercise) than when unaided. While videos and reading passages are equally conducive to L2 formulaic language learning, learners showed a clear preference for videos over reading as a source of L2 vocabulary input.

Keywords:

formulaic language; videos as L2 input; computer-assisted language learning