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**Review by Juana Licerias**

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**Does the paper make a novel contribution to the understanding of the topic under investigation? [max 250 words]**

Yes, it does at two levels: L1 German / L2 Spanish from corpus data has not been analyzed with this detail. The statistical analysis is pretty sophisticated.

**Is the empirical content of the paper sound (i.e. the data are collected and presented properly, the experiments are well designed, the statistics is well done, the examples contain no spelling mistakes, etc)? [max 400 words]**

The data are presented properly and the statistics is well done. Does empirical data from bilingual and native Spanish corpora meet linguistic theory? The role of discourse context in variation of subject expression

**Is the argument coherent and sound, with no major flaws and/or shortcomings, within the context of the theoretical assumptions made by the author? [max 500 words]**

I would like to see a reference to L1s other than English when discussing both learnability and L1 properties as possible accounts for the results, besides the interface hypothesis. There are data from L1 Japanese and L1 Chinese / L2 Spanish, although it does not look in detail at the pragmatic referential properties of subjects. However, L1 Spanish data and the Moroccan Arabic/Spanish bilingual data analyzed by García Alcaraz & Bel (2019), see below, should be taken into consideration as these authors offer accounts of anaphora that differ from the ones in this study. Data that should also be taken into consideration is the L2 Spanish data discussed in Bel, Aurora & Estela García-Alcaraz. 2015. Subjects in the L2 Spanish of Moroccan Arabic speakers: Evidence from bilingual and second language learners. In Tiffany Judy & Silvia Perpiñán (eds.), *The acquisition of Spanish as a second language: Data from understudied languages pairings*, 201–232. Amsterdam: John Benjamins.

Estela García-Alcaraz and Aurora Bel (2019). Does empirical data from bilingual and native Spanish corpora meet linguistic theory? The role of discourse context in variation of subject expression. *Applied Linguistics Review* 2019; 10(4): 491–515.

**Are there any relevant scholarly works that have been overlooked by the author? If the answer is YES, please provide the full references.**

At least the ones mentioned in the previous section  
Bel, Aurora & Estela García-Alcaraz. 2015. Subjects in the L2 Spanish of Moroccan Arabic

speakers: Evidence from bilingual and second language learners. In Tiffany Judy & Silvia Perpiñán (eds.), *The acquisition of Spanish as a second language: Data from understudied languages pairings*, 201–232. Amsterdam: John Benjamins.

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**Have you seen this paper, its content, the proposed analysis, or the conclusions published in other venues? [If your answer is YES, please add the relevant reference.]**

No, I have not.

**If you accept the paper with minor revisions, please list the revisions you would advice (you are not required to proofread the paper) [max 500 words]**

#### GENERAL ISSUES

—Take into account the data mentioned in the previous sections.

—Make sure that you provide examples not necessarily related to the issue of subject pronouns, to back up the assertion "Learning a new form for a familiar functional meaning is not difficult, but learning a new functional meaning for a familiar form is" (p. 2, end of first paragraph). Also, discuss how this may specifically relate to Lardiere's feature reassembly hypothesis.

#### SPECIFIC ISSUES

Example (7) b. Shouldn't the English translation reflect the fact that in the Spanish example SE (as indicated in the gloss) is a reflexive? In other words, shouldn't the translation be "he lights a cigarette for himself" even if that is not a common sentence in English? Alternatively, it could be indicated in a footnote.

p. 8, line 8/9 below section 3.2., one IS should be removed.

p. 8, 4th paragraph: "Many of..." should be indented

p. 8, 4th paragraph, line 6 Dominguez & Arche: year should appear in parenthesis (2022)

p. 8, last line... there is something missing on sentence "what is going more broadly remains..." as it does not make sense like that.

p.19, paragraph "The second two..." should be indented