

Integrating SLA evidence into DDL effects-oriented research

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Outline of the talk

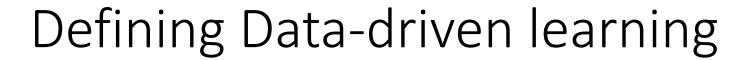
- What we mean by "Data-driven learning (DDL) effects-oriented research"
- How DDL effects-oriented research has developed so far
- Connection between SLA evidence and DDL potential ("reaching the parts other teaching can't reach"; Boulton, 2008)
- Exploring DDL effects on L2 Italian phraseological competence development



"Using the tools and techniques of corpus linguistics for pedagogical purposes."

Gilquin & Granger, 2010, p. 359.

Broad definition

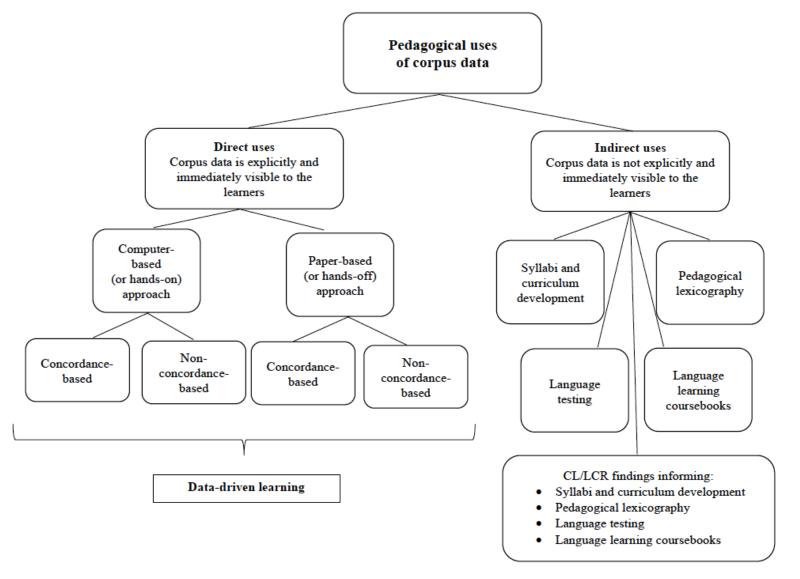


Direct vs. indirect uses (Leech, 1997)

Immediate vs. delayed uses (Granger, 2009)

Direct vs. indirect uses (Leech, 1997)

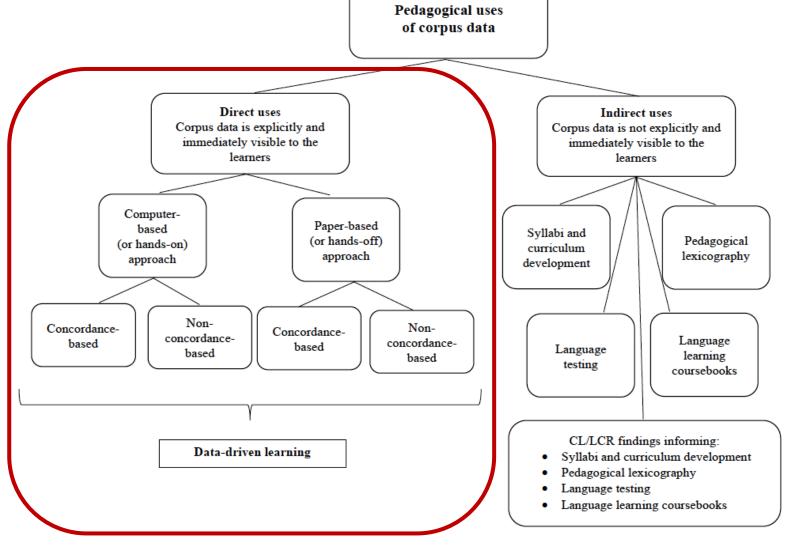
Immediate vs. delayed uses (Granger, 2009)



Direct vs. indirect uses (Leech, 1997)

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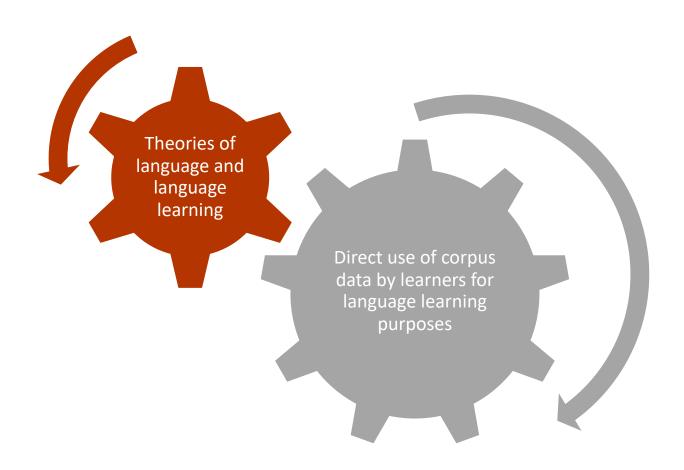
More specific definition and description



Theoretical underpinnings of DDL:

- Constructivism
- Sociocultural theory
- Noticing hypothesis
- Usage-based approaches
- ..

(Cobb, 1997; Flowerdew, 2005; O'Keeffe, 2021; Pérez-Paredes et al., 2020; Schmidt, 2001)





Defining "DDL effects-oriented research"

Research based on the collection, analysis, and interpretation of empirical data related to the effects of DDL on:

- learning with respect to a specific language focus;
- attitudes of the learners engaging in corpus-based activities;
- behaviour of the learners while engaging in corpus-based activities.



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Boulton & Cobb, 2017: Lee et al. 2018.

Learning aims in DDL effects-oriented research

Which challenges do second language learners encounter in these areas?



Second language acquisition empirical evidence

The case of phraseology

- Semantic opacity, e.g. to make a stand
 (Altenberg & Granger, 2001; Gyllstad & Wolter, 2016)
- Infrequency in input, e.g. to see red
 (Wolter & Gyllstad, 2013; Durrant, 2014)
- Lack of congruency with the L1, e.g. <u>to take a photo</u> vs. <u>fare una foto</u> (no parallel use in the two languages, Jarvis, 2000, p. 255) (Granger, 1998; Nesselhauf, 2003; Wang, 2016; Wolter & Gyllstad, 2011; Yamashita & Yang, 2010; Wolter & Gyllstad, 2013; Wolter & Yamashita, 2018)

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Can DDL help and make a difference?



- For opaque phraseological units:
 - provides authentic examples, displaying a variety of phraseological uses;
 - learners can identify differences between literal and non-literal uses, by inferring meaning from context.

(e.g. raccontare una storia vs. raccontare storie)



- For infrequent phraseological units:
 - provides numerous examples for learners to explore;
 - this can trigger frequency effects, overcoming the potential limitations of infrequency.



For incongruent phraseological units:

- provides numerous examples displaying the target language form-meaning mappings;
- learners can build up awareness on differences with the L1, thus avoiding non-typical combinations (e.g. *dare un sorriso*, instead of *fare un sorriso*; incongruent for L1 Chinese learners).



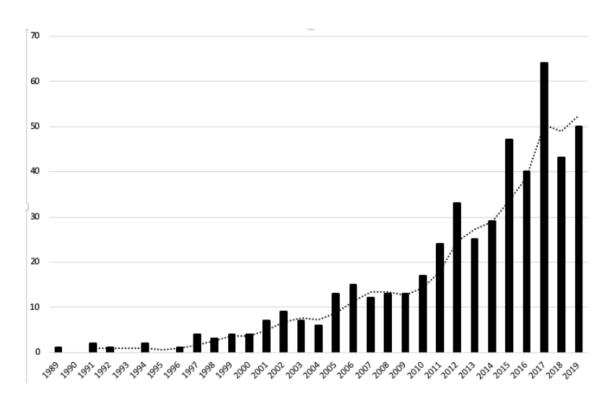
• Overall, for opaque / infrequent / incongruent phraseological units:

guided-discovery approach, making learning experiences more memorable.

Setting out to explore DDL effects in an Italian L2 context...

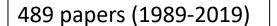
The state of the art

489 papers (1989-2019)

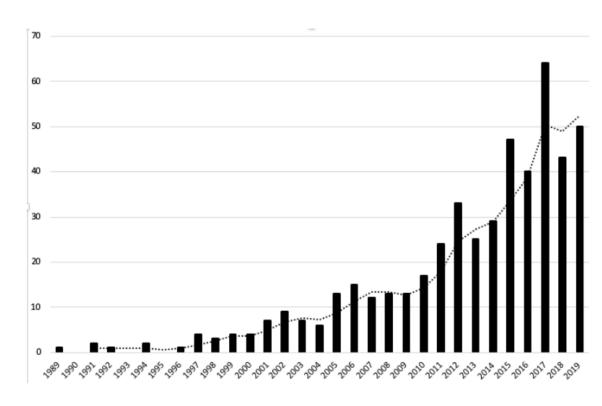


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The state of the art







Setting out to explore DDL effects in an Italian L2 context...

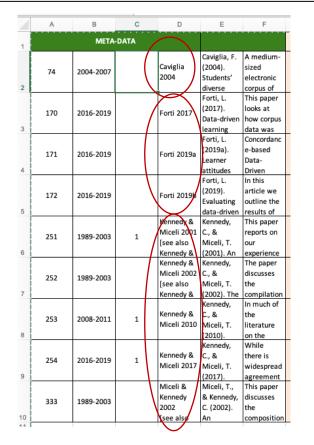
The state of the art

489 papers (1989-2019)

Boulton & Vyatkina, 2021, p. 72.

How many focused on L2 Italian?

9 papers

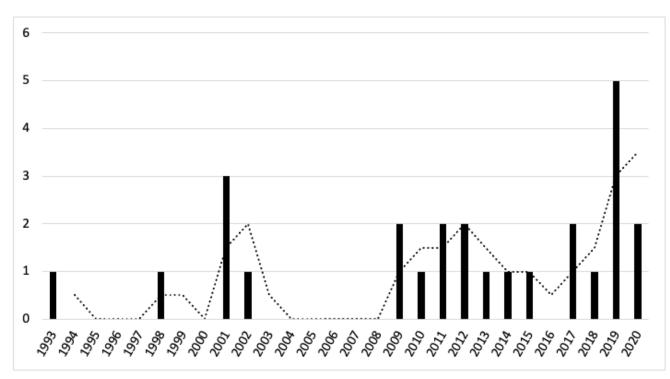


However, only papers published in English...



The state of the art

DDL studies (not only effects-oriented) focusing on L2 Italian, published in either English or Italian



Total: **26 papers** (mostly descriptive/introductory)

Setting out to explore DDL effects in an Italian L2 context...

Learner-friendly corpus resources



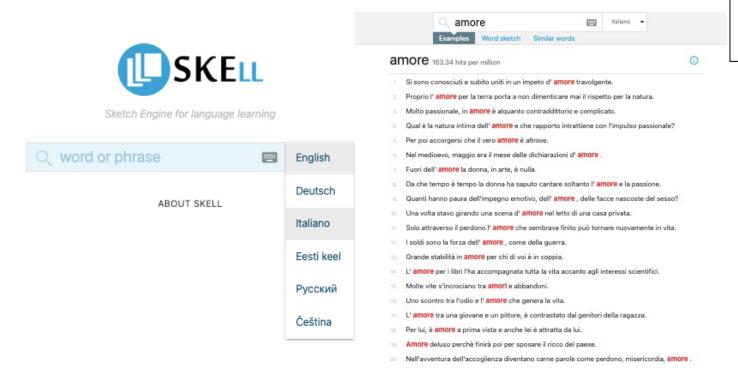


- SkELL (Sketch Engine for Language Learning).
- Selects 40 good examples for learners, from an Italian web corpus of ca. 320 million words.
- Provides "word sketches" showing cooccurrences and similar-word clouds.

Setting out to explore DDL effects in an Italian

Learner-friendly corpus resources

L2 context...

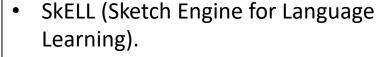


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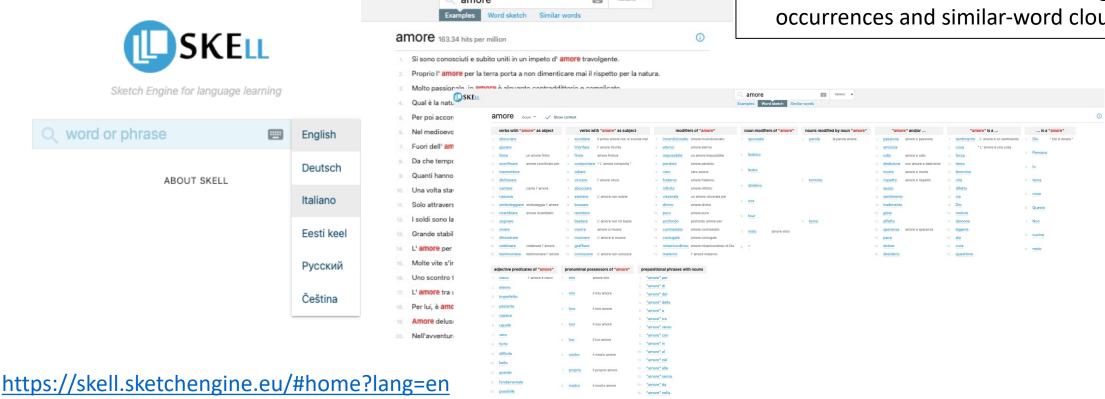
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L2 context...

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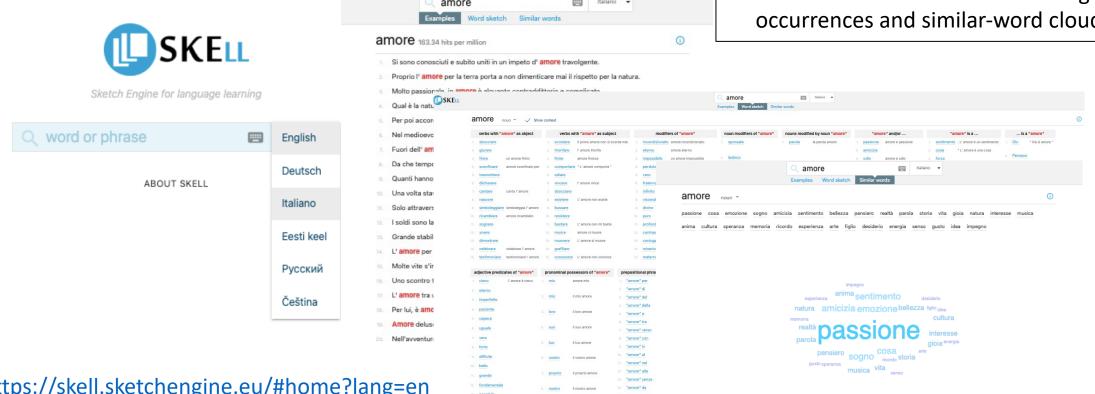


Setting out to explore DDL effects in an Italian

Learner-friendly corpus resources

L2 context...

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Setting out to explore DDL effects in an Italian L2 context...

Other corpus resources

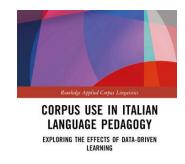
L1 corpora	L2 corpora
Perugia Corpus	Valico
Paisà	Merlin-IT
KiParla	CAIL2
La Repubblica	LIPS
CORDIC	LOCCLI
itTENTEN20	CELI

Require adaptation for most pedagogical contexts.

Exploring DDL effects on L2 Italian phraseological competence development

• Synthesis of research published in several articles and one forthcoming book.

All are based on or are an extention of my PhD work.





https://www.routledge.com/Corpus-Use-in-Italian-Language-Pedagogy-Exploring-the-Effects-of-Data-driven/Forti/p/book/9780367683634



Research questions

Overall

1. How does DDL influence the learning of collocations overall?

In relation to semantic opacity and frequency

2 a. What effect does DDL have on learning semantically opaque and semantically transparent collocations?

2 b. How does DDL influence the learning of semantically opaque/transparent collocations in relation to their frequency?

In relation to congruency and frequency

3 a. What effect does DDL have on learning congruent and incongruent collocations?

3 b. How does DDL influence the learning of congruent/incongruent collocations in relation to their frequency?

Method: study design

Design:

Controlled, longitudinal, between-groups.

Data collection:

Phraseological competence test administered at 4-week intervals, over 12 weeks.

Treatment:

One 1-hour lesson a week for 8 weeks, in 8 classes of pre-intermediate Chinese learners of Italian, aged 18-27; random assignment to EXP or CON conditions (tot. participants: 123 learners; 61 EXP, 62 CON)

Language focus:

Verb + Noun (Obj) collocations

Method: selection of learning aims



LOCCLI

(Longitudinal Corpus of Chinese Learners of Italian; Spina, 2017)



Error analysis of all V+N(obj) combinations



Selection of 32 combinations.



Combinations grouped into 8 themes.



(Perugia corpus; Spina, 2014)



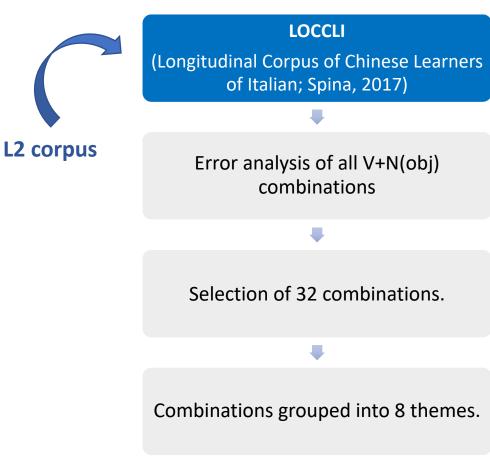
Extraction of all V+N(obj) combinations

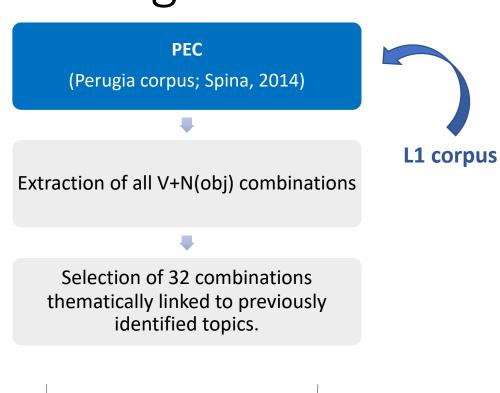


Selection of 32 combinations thematically linked to previously identified topics.



Method: selection of learning aims





target-driven selection

Method: weekly learning aims

Week	Theme	Collocations
1	At a party	LOCCLI: fare amicizia; fare un sorriso; avere [numero] anni; studiare [materia]; amare [attività]. PEC: organizzare una festa; fare gli auguri; fare un regalo.
2	The weekend	LOCCLI: fare una passeggiata; prendere il sole; fare una gita; prendere aria. PEC: avere fretta; pulire casa; spendere soldi; fare la spesa.
3	My typical day	LOCCLI: prendere l'autobus; fare colazione; mettersi la giacca; avere lezione. PEC: rifare il letto; mettere la musica; fare la doccia; mandare un messaggio.
4	My house	LOCCLI: avere fame; preparare la cena. PEC: sbagliare la strada; trovare la strada; trovare casa; affittare una casa; dividere un appartamento; dividere una spesa.
5	My hobbies	LOCCLI: suonare la chitarra; fare sport; fare shopping; ascoltare musica; dipingere quadri; fare una foto; leggere un romanzo; vedere un film.
6	My last holidays	LOCCLI: gustare i cibi; visitare la città; ampliare le conoscenze; ricordare un'esperienza. PEC: organizzare un viaggio; prendere un treno; fare la fila; fare la valigia.
7	A friendship	LOCCLI: raccontare una storia. PEC: diventare amico; avere un dubbio; chiedere un consiglio; dare un consiglio; ascoltare un consiglio; trovare una soluzione; cambiare opinione.
8	Plans for the future	LOCCLI: fare l'artista; fare un viaggio; risparmiare soldi; fare esperienze. PEC: fare un esame; avere un'idea; cambiare casa; avere successo.



EXPERIMENTAL VS. CONTROL LESSON STAGES				
5′	Gamified introduction to weekly collocations			
25'	 EXPERIMENTAL GROUPS: paper-based DDL activities Concordance based matching; Concordance based gap-fill; Concordance based pattern-hunting; Concordance-based matching. 	 CONTROL GROUPS: non-DDL activities Matching single split sentences; Single sentence gap-fill; Single sentence error correction; Single sentence transformation exercise. 		
15'	Practice and production activities			
1'	Homework assignment			
4′	End-of-lesson game			

Method: Sample DDL activity 1

La metà mancante (the missing half)

Qual è la parola che viene dopo fare, in ciascuna delle frasi tagliate a metà? (La parola è la stessa in ogni frase)

Era un ragazzo di vent'anni e aveva già fatto

Sai se Patrizia ha fatto

Credo che il metodo giusto per fare

Per me è facile fare

Chattare in internet con persone sconosciute è un ottimo modo per fare

Apriamo il nostro cuore e facciamo

Era tutto nuovo per me, ma pian piano ho cominciato a fare

Elvis era ormai adolescente, ma nella nuova città non riusciva a fare

L'università è un posto dove si studia, si fa

Vedo che state facendo

Method: Sample DDL activity 1

La metà mancante (the missing half)

Qual è la parola che viene dopo fare, in ciascuna delle frasi tagliate a metà? (La parola è la stessa in ogni frase)

Era un ragazzo di vent'anni e aveva già fatto amicizia con quel prete dalla faccia buona.

Sai se Patrizia ha fatto amicizia con qualcuno dell'azienda?

Credo che il metodo giusto per fare amicizia sia quello di stare in compagnia.

Per me è facile **fare** amicizia con persone straniere.

Chattare in internet con persone sconosciute è un ottimo modo per fare amicizia, ma può essere pericoloso.

Apriamo il nostro cuore e facciamo amicizia con persone di colore e sicuramente non ci pentiremo.

Era tutto nuovo per me, ma pian piano ho cominciato a fare amicizia con tutti.

Elvis era ormai adolescente, ma nella nuova città non riusciva a fare amicizia con nessuno.

L'università è un posto dove si studia, si fa amicizia, si ride, e a volte si piange.

Vedo che state facendo amicizia! Venite a pranzo con noi?

Method: Sample DDL activity 1

La metà mancante (the missing half)

Insieme agli altri membri del tuo gruppo, trova le metà mancanti per questi otto gruppi di frasi.



Method: Sample DDL activity 1

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Method: Sample non-DDL activity 1

Quante sono le combinazioni possibili?

Lista di verbi: Lista di nomi:

fare economia studiare amicizia avere sorriso amare 25 anni organizzare sport festa

festa auguri regalo

Scrivile qui sotto:



Quante sono le combinazioni possibili?

Lista di verbi:

fare studiare avere amare organizzare

Scrivile qui sotto:

Lista di nomi:

economia amicizia sorriso 25 anni sport festa auguri regalo Soluzione: 18!

Eccole:

- Fare + economia
- 2. Fare + amicizia
- 3. Fare + sorriso
- Fare + 25 anni
- 5. Fare + sport
- 6. Fare + festa
- 7. Fare + auguri
- 8. Fare + regalo
- 9. Studiare + economia
- Avere + amicizia
- 11. Avere + sorriso
- 12. Avere + 25 anni
- 13. Avere + regalo
- 14. Amare + economia
- 15. Amare + sorriso
- 16. Amare + sport
- 17. Amare + regalo
- 18. Organizzare + festa

Method: Sample DDL activity 2

Multiple-sentence gap-fill

Qual è la parola che manca?

1.

una passeggiata in collina.
una lunga passeggiata romantica con lui.
una passeggiata, voleva solo suonare: suonare e basta.
una passeggiata.
una passeggiata e siamo andati a bere un'altra birra.
una passeggiata tra vari monumenti nel cuore di Washington.

2.

Di giorno stavano sulla riva a	il sole e a nuotare.
Guarda che se io	il sole, sai come divento nero? Ma nero, nero, nero, nero!
Ci sono molte panchine dove le persone possono	il sole, leggere, parlare con gli amici
Mandaci una cartolina e una foto di te che	il sole sulla spiaggia.
	il sole fa bene: può migliorare l' umore.
Fra un po' vado a	il sole in giardino.

3.

Quando uno	una gita all'estero, inizialmente vede tutto più bello.
Angela e Glauco stavano sempre insieme, andavano a	gite in motocicletta, su per le montagne, a nuotare, a sciare
Marcolino e la sua fidanzata volevano	un viaggio da soli.
Sono ancora indecisa se	un viaggio nel Rajastan, o invece andare a Montecarlo.
Mi piacerebbe	un viaggio con Italia, dormire negli alberghi, fare l'amore, ripartire.

4.

Rocchi, vieni a	aria.
Quanto tempo è che non faccio	aria alla casa, tre mesi? Cinque?
Hai bisogno di	aria.
Padre Emanuele lo incitava a	aria fresca.
Volevano mandarla a	aria buona nelle fotezze alpine.
Esco fuori a	aria.

5.

Domani devo andare a lavorare e poi al ritorno dovrò	casa, lavare, stirare
Mia nonna lavava i piatti o	la casa e poi si metteva sul divano e riposava.
Cantava le opere mentre	la casa.
Prima di andare via, ha	casa e sul tavolo in cucina un biglietto per me.
Vado a prepararmi,	casa, e poi andiamo fuori a festeggiare il compleanno di mio fratello.
Quella sera, mentre	la casa, Ernestina disse: "Brioschi sembra proprio una brava persona".

6.

Noi dobbiamo andare a casa.	fretta.
Salvatore, non è giornata! Fai guidare me! Levati!	fretta! Dai, fai guidare me! Guido io!
Potete rispondere quando volete, non	fretta. Grazie.
Ti richiamo domani. Adesso	fretta. Sto andando da un cliente
	fretta di abbandonare questo assurdo posto.
Io non	fretta. Ho solo la necessità di capire.

7.

La crisi economica ha messo in pericolo la tradizione natalizia di	soldi in regali costosi.
Quando i virus entrano nel computer, poi i nostri genitori	soldi per farlo riparare .
Quando mi regalano le figurine, le accetto perché così non devono	soldi in edicola .
A volte, si	soldi per cercare l'introvabile o l'inguardabile.
Purtroppo si continua a	soldi tra centrocampisti e attacanti, e non per la difesa.
Si deve mostrare nei fatti come si	i soldi.

8.

Non ci possiamo sedere, devo	la spesa.
Io porto i bambini a scuola e poi vado a	la spesa con Eminè.
La domenica mattina lui va a	spese in un paesino vicino a dove abita.
Esco solo per	la spesa e così incontro qualche vecchio amico.
Chi deve lavare, pulire, stirare, cucinare,	la spesa? Io, sempre e solo io!
Senti cosa è successo.	la spesa per cinque persone e invece siamo in tre!

Method: Sample non-DDL activity 2

Scrivi la parola che manca.

- Gli puoi inviare un fax, senza ______ soldi.
- Porto i bambini a scuola e poi vado a ______ la spesa con Alessia.
- Quand'è l'ultima volta che abbiamo fatto _____ passeggiata?
- Se io il sole, divento nero nero!
- Angela e Glauco amavano fare ______ in motocicletta, su per le montagne.
- Sono uscito a ______ aria.
- Io non _____ fretta, voglio solo capire.
- Questa sera ho ospiti cena, quindi adesso devo _____ casa



Advantages of paper-based DDL

 Adaptation to proficiency level (curation of data) and context (lack of computers).

Integration / normalisation with other paper-based materials.

• Flexible use.

 Corpus input tightly controlled (good for empirical studies and replications).

Method: data collection tool

Method: weekly learning aims

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64-item phraseological competence test

32 target combinations based on LOCCLI

Multiple choice items

32 target combinations based on PEC

Gap-fill items

- In estate vorrei...
- a. fare viaggio

c. fare un viaggio

b. fare la viaggio

d. nessuna di queste

1. Tra poco, il film al cinema inizierà. una doccia e andiamo.

Method: Data collection outline

Data collection point	Week	Collocation set	Experimental groups	Control groups
1	0	n/a	Getting to know each other activities Background questionnaire Phraseological competence test 1	
	1	1	DDL activities	Non-DDL activities
	2	2	DDL activities	Non-DDL activities
	3	3	DDL activities	Non-DDL activities
	4	4	DDL activities	Non-DDL activities
2	5	n/a	n/a Phraseological competence test 2	
		5	DDL activities	Non-DDL activities
	6	6	DDL activities	Non-DDL activities
	7	7	DDL activities	Non-DDL activities
	8	8	DDL activities	Non-DDL activities
3		n/a	Phraseological	competence test 3
	9-12		No lessons	
4	12	n/a	Phraseological	competence test 4
			End-of-course questionnaire for experimental groups	End-of-course questionnaire for control groups

Retention rates

Method: data coding

• Semantic transparency: 13 raters asked to rate 64 collocations according to categories in Howarth's *Phraseological continuum model* (Howarth, 1998) – sample of 32 selected (Krippendorf's alpha = 0. 742)

e.g.

transparent: ascoltare la musica, 'to listen to music'

opaque: avere un'idea, 'to have an idea'

- Congruency: list of 64 target collocations categorised for L1 congruency by two different expert L1 Chinese speakers.
- Phrasal frequency: operationalised as overall number of co-occurring sequences present in a reference corpus of Italian (Spina, 2014)

```
Example of CQP query: [lemma="fare"][pos="ADV.*"]?[pos="ART"]?[pos="ADJ|DET.*|NUM|PREDET"]?[lemma="passeggiata"]
```

Method: data analysis

Mixed-effects modeling

Outcome variable	Levels
Accuracy	Correct
	Incorrect

Interacting	Levels
variables	
Test Number	Test 1
	Test 2
	Test 3
	Test 4
Item Type 1	Transparent
	Opaque
Item Type 2	Congruent
	Incongruent
Condition	Control
	Experimental
Frequency	(continuous)

Random effects
Student ID
Item ID

Main challenges in conducting the study

- Adapting the data from the Perugia Corpus to suit a pre-intermediate proficiency level (no it-SkELL at the time!).
- Expected level vs. actual level.
- Constructing DDL activities so that they varied enough within a lesson.
- Teachers teaching in language courses:
 - difficulties in getting accepted (1 hour of class a week devoted to my project...);
 - difficulties in getting teachers to collaborate in the (simultaneous!) administration of the end-of-course questionnaire.



«Data-driven Learning: la linguistica dei corpora al servizio della didattica delle lingue straniere e del CLIL» a cura di Elisa Corino https://edizionicafoscari.unive.it/it/edizioni4/riviste/elle/2019/2/



Research questions

Overall

1. How does DDL influence the learning of collocations overall?

In relation to semantic opacity and frequency

2 a. What effect does DDL have on learning semantically opaque and semantically transparent collocations?

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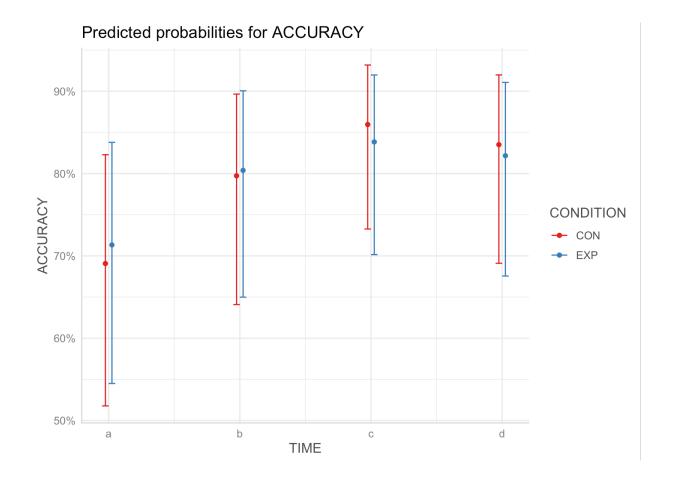
In relation to congruency and frequency

3 a. What effect does DDL have on learning congruent and incongruent collocations?

3 b. How does DDL influence the learning of congruent/incongruent collocations in relation to their frequency?

RQ 1. How does DDL influence the learning of collocations overall?

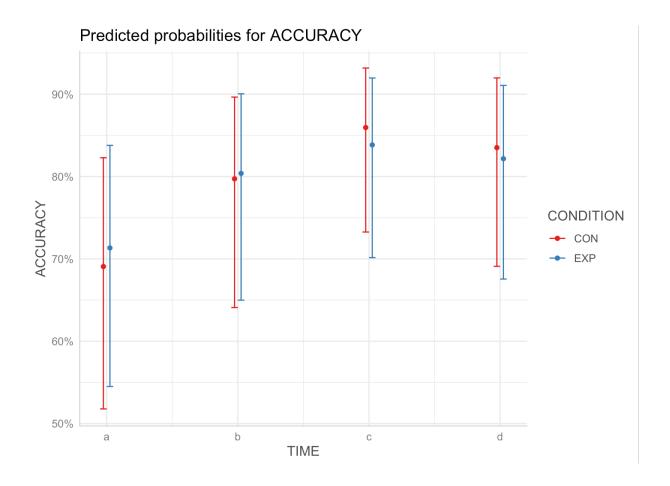
Very similar Ushaped learning curves in both conditions.

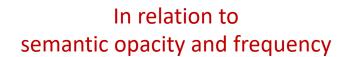


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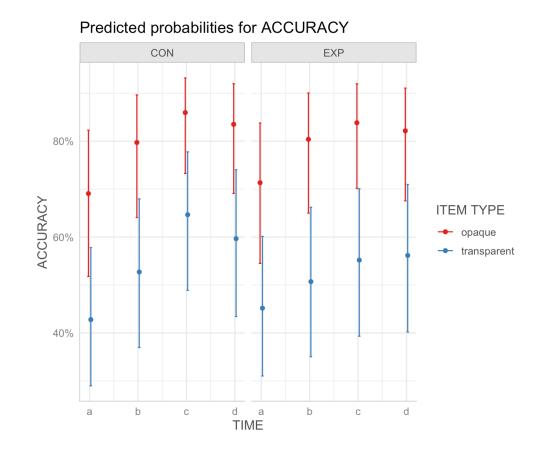
What if we include semantic transparency into the picture?

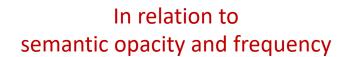




RQ 2 a. What effect does DDL have on learning semantically opaque and semantically transparent collocations?

- ➤ U-shaped learning curves in both conditions, except for transparent items in the EXP condition.
- Opaque collocations with higher predicted probabilities for accuracy.

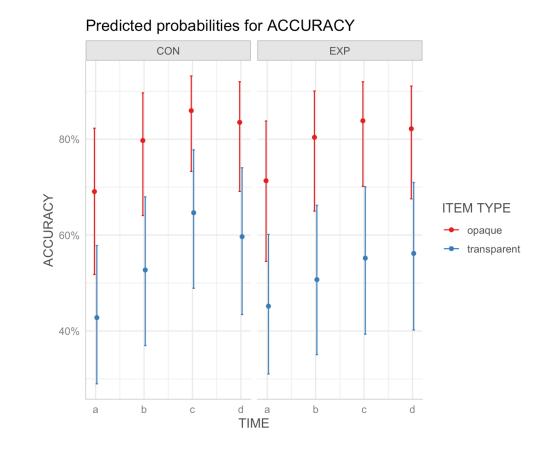




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What if we also consider phrasal frequency?

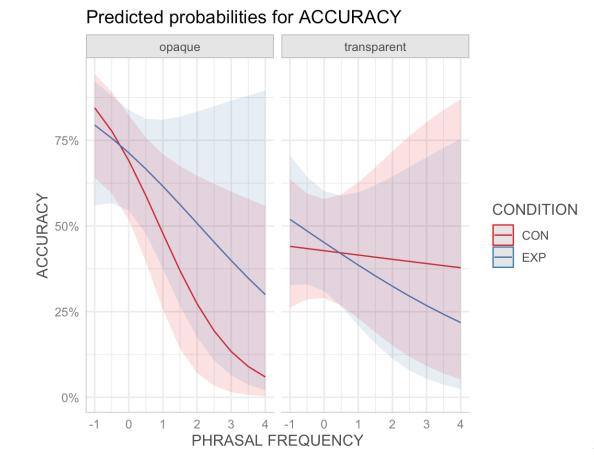


RQ 2 b. How does DDL influence the learning of semantically opaque/transparent collocations in relation to their frequency?

As frequency increases, accuracy decreases in both opaque and trasparent collocations.

however:

- In opaque collocations, the decrease is not as steep in the EXP condition as it is in the CON condition;
- in the transparent collocations, the steeper decrease is seen in the EXP condition.

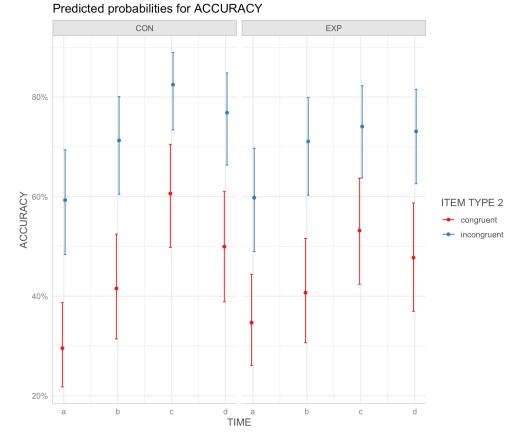


RQ 3 a. What effect does DDL have on learning congruent and

incongruent collocations?

Both conditions exhibit Ushaped learning patterns.

- Incongruent collocations are learned significantly better in both groups.
- The best retention rates (differences between time c and d) are observed for incongruent collocations in the EXP condition.



In relation to congruency and frequency

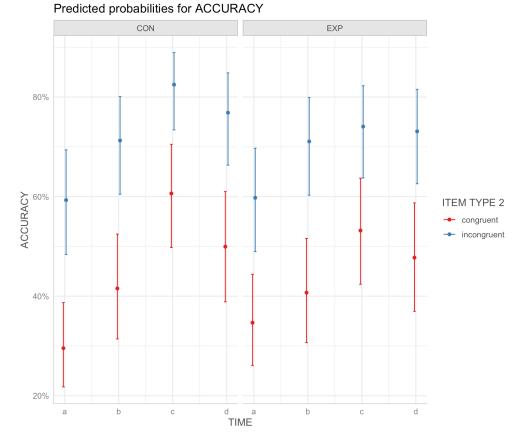
Results

RQ 3 a. What effect does DDL have on learning congruent and

incongruent collocations?

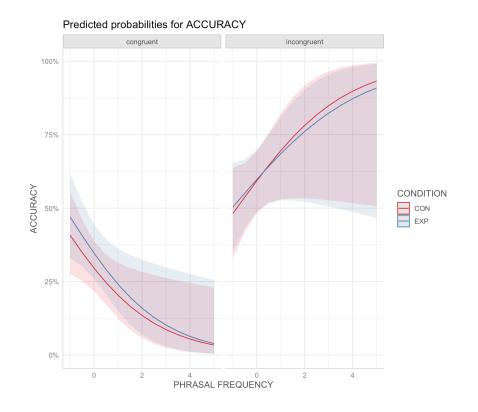
Both conditions exhibit Ushaped learning patterns.

- Incongruent collocations are learned significantly better in both groups.
- The best retention rates (differences between time c and d) are observed for incongruent collocations in the EXP condition.



RQ 3 b. How does DDL influence the learning of congruent/incongruent collocations in relation to their frequency?

- Interaction between phrasal frequency and L2 congruency is significant.
- As phrasal frequency increases, predicted probabilities for accuracy:
 - decrease for congruent collocations;
 - increase for incongruent collocations.





Discussion

➤ The richer input typical of DDL does not necessarily lead to overall better language gains in comparison to a non-DDL approach.

- Duration: interventions of 10 sessions or more lead to better results (Lee et al. 2018, p. 25).
- Absence of a preliminary training opportunity: no significant differences (Lee et al. 2018, p. 25).



Discussion

►Incongruent collocations are retained better in a DDL setting.

 Engaging in DDL activities may lead to longer lasting effects in terms of the robustness of learning, thanks to repeated encounters with multiple examples containing the same combination and heavier cognitive load than traditional activities.



Discussion

➤ Opaque and infrequent collocations exhibit better accuracy rates in the DDL rather than the non-DDL setting.

Numerosity of examples -> frequency effects

 Deriving meaning from multiple contexts to overcome semantic opacity more effective than not having multiple contexts



Possible future steps

- Conduct the analysis with other quantitative measures of collocations (e.g. **Delta P, log-dice** etc.)
- More focus on retention rates, to see how the principles of concordance-based DDL affect memorability across the different properties of the learning aims.
- Investigate differences among the 8 classes of students, to see whether there are any changes in comparison to the overall patterns observed.
- Ultimately try to identify the conditions that make concordancebased DDL more effective than other approaches.



Conclusions

Informing effects-oriented DDL research with SLA evidence-driven research questions helps in:

- having a more nuanced view of DDL effects;
- making DDL research relevant to current L2 research findings related to second language learner needs;
- creating links that can more easily guide language teachers towards the observation of how DDL can help in language teaching practices, thus contributing to bridge the research/teaching gap (Chambers, 2019; Pérez-Paredes, 2019).

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