**Supplementary materials**

Table S1. example of annotation of VS occurrences in the corpus

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Speaker** | **level** | **sentence** | **errors** | **clause** | **verb\_type** | **configuration** | **verb\_semantics** | **complexity** | **agentivity** | **IS\_lex** | **IS\_ref** | **contrast** |
| SP009A1 | A1 | è veramente bella la mia casa | 0 | main | copular | V\_XP\_S | [-dynamic] | DET\_N | [-agentive] | new | new | non-contrastive |
|  |  | *My house is really beautiful* |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| SP011A1 | A1 | sì mi piacciono i colori chiari per l'estate | 0 | main | Piacere-type | CLIT\_V\_S | [-dynamic] | DET\_N\_SPEC | [-agentive] | given | generic | non-contrastive |
|  |  | *Yes I like light colours for the summer* |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| SP017A1 | A2 | di quello che fate voi | 0 | relative | transitive | V\_S | [+dynamic] | N | [+agentive] | PRO | given | Contrastive |
|  |  | *Of what you do* |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| SP029A1 | A2 | uh mi piace Tokyo | 0 | main | Piacere-type | CLIT\_V\_S | [-dynamic] | N | [-agentive] | given | given | non-contrastive |
|  |  | *I like Tokyo* |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| SP034B1 | B1 | eeh mh che me lo ha regalato il mio nonno | 0 | relative | transitive | CLIT\_V\_S | [+dynamic] | DET\_N | [+agentive] | new | new | non-contrastive |
|  |  | *That my granpa gave it to me* |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| SP049B1 | B1 | parlano tutti | 0 | main | unergative | V\_S | [+dynamic] | N | [+agentive] | PRO | given | non-contrastive |
|  |  | *Everybody speaks* |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| SP093B2 | B2 | in alto è collocato una grande parabola | 1 | main | transitive | XP\_V\_S | [-dynamic] | DET\_N | [-agentive] | new | new | non-contrastive |
|  |  | *a big satellite dish has been collocated above* |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| SP099B2 | B2 | cucinaremo tutt'e due | 0 | complement | unergative | V\_S | [+dynamic] | N | [+agentive] | PRO | given | Contrastive |
|  |  | *Both of us will cook* |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| SP114C2 | C1 | quando vengono i temporali | 0 | adverbial | unaccusative | V\_S | [+dynamic] | DET\_N | [-agentive] | new | generic | non-contrastive |
|  |  | *When the storms come* |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| SP149C2 | C1 | lo frequentano anche delle ragazze di diciotto diciannove anni | 0 | complement | transitive | CLIT\_V\_S | [+dynamic] | DET\_N\_SPEC | [+agentive] | given | generic | contrastive |
|  |  | *eighteen or nineteen years-old girls, too, frequent it* |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| SP152C2 | C2 | eh quando arriva il compleanno | 0 | adverbial | unaccusative | V\_S | [+dynamic] | DET\_N | [-agentive] | new | new | non-contrastive |
|  |  | *When the birthday comes* |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| SP166C2 | C2 | gira un po' l'economia | 0 | main | unergative | V\_XP\_S | [+dynamic] | DET\_N | [-agentive] | new | generic | non-contrastive |
|  |  | *The economy goes on a little* |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| SP169C2 | C2 | che a marina militare è uscito un bando | 0 | complement | unaccusative | XP\_V\_S | [+dynamic] | DET\_N\_COMP | [-agentive] | new | new | non-contrastive |
|  |  | *That a competition notice has been issued in the navy* |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |

Table S2. Full set of parameters of the multinomial logistic regression analysis with the learners’ proficiency levels as outcome variable and the features associated with VS structures as predictors. With the exception of verb dynamicity, the results of this analysis are comparable to the ones of the cumulative link mixed model reported in the paper.

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| *Predictors* |  | *Coefficient* | *SE* | *P* |
| Intercept | B2 | 1.41 | .54 | .01 |
|  | C1 | .51 | .58 | .39 |
|  | C2 | -.003 | .59 | 1 |
| Verb\_class [*piacere*-type] | B2 | -1.10 | .57 | .05 |
|  | C1 | -1.29 | .62 | .04 |
|  | C2 | -.94 | .59 | .11 |
| Verb\_class [unaccusative] | B2 | -.69 | .50 | .17 |
|  | C1 | .29 | .52 | .57 |
|  | C2 | -.06 | .52 | .91 |
| Verb\_class [unergative] | B2 | -1.03 | .67 | .13 |
|  | C1 | .66 | .63 | .29 |
|  | C2 | .36 | .65 | .58 |
| Verb\_class [transitive] | B2 | .26 | .69 | .71 |
|  | C1 | 1.41 | .69 | .04 |
|  | C2 | 1.74 | .67 | .01 |
| Verb\_semantics [+ dynamic] | B2 | .94 | .44 | .03 |
|  | C1 | .89 | .43 | .04 |
|  | C2 | .62 | .43 | .14 |
| IS\_lexical [lex\_given] | B2 | -.42 | .42 | .32 |
|  | C1 | -.17 | .43 | .69 |
|  | C2 | -.004 | .44 | .99 |
| IS\_lexical [lex\_new] | B2 | -.45 | .46 | .33 |
|  | C1 | -.85 | .49 | .08 |
|  | C2 | -.44 | .50 | .38 |
| IS\_referential [ref\_given] | B2 | -.81 | .38 | .03 |
|  | C1 | -.81 | .38 | .04 |
|  | C2 | -.21 | .38 | .58 |
| IS\_referential [ref\_new] | B2 | -.30 | .35 | .38 |
|  | C1 | -.23 | .38 | .54 |
|  | C2 | -.07 | .37 | .85 |
| Contrastivity [contrastive] | B2 | .23 | .30 | .44 |
|  | C1 | .82 | .31 | .001 |
|  | C2 | .40 | .31 | .21 |
| Agreement\_errors [1] | B2 | -.85 | .47 | .07 |
|  | C1 | -1.04 | .51 | .04 |
|  | C2 | -.96 | .49 | .04 |
| Agentivity [+ agentive] | B2 | -.14 | .50 | .78 |
|  | C1 | -.14 | .49 | .78 |
|  | C2 | -1.02 | .51 | .047 |
| Syntactic\_configuration [CLIT\_V\_S] | B2 | -.25 | .50 | .62 |
|  | C1 | -.26 | .51 | .61 |
|  | C2 | -.29 | .50 | .56 |
| Syntactic\_configuration [XP\_V\_S] | B2 | .09 | .44 | .84 |
|  | C1 | -.55 | .47 | .24 |
|  | C2 | .36 | .44 | .41 |
| Syntactic\_configuration [V\_XP\_S] | B2 | 1.18 | 1.15 | .30 |
|  | C1 | .86 | 1.17 | .51 |
|  | C2 | 2.37 | 1.10 | .03 |
| Clause\_type [complement] | B2 | 2.03 | .66 | .002 |
|  | C1 | 2.10 | .67 | .001 |
|  | C2 | 2.31 | .67 | .001 |
| Clause\_type [adverbial] | B2 | -1.07 | .36 | .62 |
|  | C1 | -.46 | .38 | .23 |
|  | C2 | .21 | .37 | .56 |
| Clause\_type [relative] | B2 | -.43 | .53 | .42 |
|  | C1 | -.65 | .52 | .21 |
|  | C2 | .43 | .50 | .40 |
| Subject\_complexity [DET\_N\_SPEC] | B2 | -.49 | .52 | .35 |
|  | C1 | .19 | .52 | .71 |
|  | C2 | .24 | .52 | .64 |
| Subject\_complexity [DET\_N\_COMP] | B2 | -.92 | .31 | .003 |
|  | C1 | -.38 | .33 | .24 |
|  | C2 | -.28 | .32 | .38 |
| Subject\_complexity [DET\_N\_SPEC\_COMP] | B2 | .98 | .89 | .27 |
|  | C1 | 1.16 | 1 | .25 |
|  | C2 | 1.86 | .90 | .04 |

Table S3. Distribution of piacere-type verbs across proficiency levels. The percentages are calculated based on the total amount of VSs with *piacere*-type verbs in each proficiency level. The analysis aims to distinguish the use of *mi piace* (as mostly occurring in the corpus) from the productive use of *piacere*-type verbs, with clitic forms, lemmas and inflectional variants of *piacere* different from the first person dative clitic *mi* (‘to me’), the lemma *piacere* and the present form of the third person singular *piace*, respectively. In particular, we distinguished the following five levels:

* MI PIACE: use of the expression *mi piace* (I like);
* MI PIACE-type verbs with variation in verb inflection: use of the first person dative clitic *mi* (‘to me’) followed by a *piacere*-verb whose inflection is different from the present form of the third person singular *piace* (e.g., *mi piaceva.*PST.IPFV.3SG. ‘I liked’).
* MI PIACE-type verbs with variation in the lemma: use of the first person dative clitic *mi* (‘to me’) followed by a psychological verb exhibiting the same syntactic behaviour as *piacere* (see Section 1.2) – e.g., *mi basta*.PRS.3SG. (‘it is enough for me’);
* MI PIACE-type verbs with variation in clitic form and verb inflection: use of a clitic different from the first person dative clitic *mi* followed by an inflectional variant of the verb *piacere* (e.g*. gli.*CLIT.DAT.3SG. *piaceva*.PST.IPFV.3SG. ‘he liked’);
* MI PIACE-type verbs with variation in clitic form, the lemma and verb inflection: use of a clitic different from the first person dative clitic *mi* followed by a psychological verb exhibiting the same syntactic behaviour as *piacere* with an inflection different from the present form of the third person singular (e.g. *gli.*CLIT.DAT.3SG. *serviva*.PST.IPFV.3SG. ‘he needed it’).

Overall, the levels 2 to 5 suggest a productive use of *piacere*-type verbs.

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | A1 | A2 | B1 | B2 | C1 | C2 |
| 1. MI PIACE | 7  (58.33%) | 16  (69.57%) | 41  (53.95%) | 21  (53.85%) | 5  (29.41%) | 8  (34.78%) |
| 2. MI PIACE-type verbs with variation in verb inflection | 1  (8.33%) | 2  (8.70%) | 28  (36.84%) | 9  (23.08%) | 4  (23.53%) | 10  (43.48%) |
| 3. MI PIACE-type verbs with variation in the lemma | 3  (25.00%) | 4  (17.39%) | 3  (3.95%) | 4  (10.26%) | 4  (23.53%) | 3  (13.04%) |
| 4. MI PIACE-type verbs with variation in clitic form and verb inflection | 0 | 1  (4.35%) | 4  (5.26%) | 4  (10.26%) | 1  (5.88%) | 3  (4.35%) |
| 5. MI PIACE-type verbs with variation in clitic form, the lemma and verb inflection | 1  (8.33%) | 0 | 0 | 1  (2.56%) | 3  (17.65%) | 1  (4.35%) |