

Acquisition of Noun Modifiers in third language Arabic (L3) by Iranian Persian (L1) Speakers learners of English as a Second Language

Ali Akbar Jabbari*

Associate Professor of Applied Linguistics, English Department, Yazd University,
Yazd, Iran

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The present study was applied on third language acquisition of noun modifiers in Arabic in order to check the role of transfer in the previously acquired Persian (L1) and English (L2). Thirty two participants in English intermediate proficiency level as second language of native Persian (L1) speakers were selected. Two tasks including Grammaticality Judgment test and Translation test were administered to elicit the participants' knowledge in syntactic position and the agreement of noun modifiers in Arabic. Having analyzed the data, the researchers found out that the participants transferred the noun modifiers more significantly from English as a second language than L1 Persian or a combination of both L1 Persian and L2 English into Arabic as a third language. The results of the present study show which background languages play a major role in third language acquisition.

Key words: Third Language Acquisition, Syntactic Position of Noun Modifiers, Persian Language, English Language, Arabic Language.

* E-mail: jabbari@yazd.ac.ir