

The Effects of NNS-NNS and NNS-NS Telecollaborative Interaction on the Development of Second Language Confidence

Lauren Hetrovicz

Northwestern University

Abstract

Second language confidence (L2C), as defined by Clément (1980), is a lack of anxiety when speaking in the second language and high ratings of self-proficiency; it is also influenced by both the frequency of contact with speakers of target language and quality or pleasantness of these encounters. L2C is considered a central component in second language learning as it can affect the outcome and process of SLA and motivation (Dörnyei, 2005). While various studies have examined the extent to which second language confidence may promote and/or hinder SLA (e.g., Yashima, 2002; Tudini, 2003; Ortega, 2008; Jauregi & Bañados, 2008; Vurdién, 2019) it is still unclear whether and how other contexts and types of interaction may promote L2C. To address this gap, this investigation sought to answer the following questions: (1) Does telecollaborative interaction in the target language contribute to the development of L2C? (2) Are there differences in the perception of interlocutor type in telecollaborative interaction (a peer NNS vs. a NS on TalkAbroad) in terms of richness and self-involvement of the language contact? The participants (n= 28) were students enrolled in a fifth-semester Spanish conversation course at a large, public U.S. university. Using a counter-balanced design, they completed one 30-minute conversation with a peer on Zoom and one 30-minute conversation with a native speaker on TalkAbroad. In addition to the conversations, data also comes from the participants' responses to an initial second language confidence questionnaire and two post-conversation questionnaires adapted from Park & Lee (2006) and Espinosa (2007). A series of within and between group comparisons using a pre-posttest design were conducted to determine the extent to which each type of interaction led to changes in L2C, and implications of the findings will be explained in terms of the integrated model proposed by Clément and Sampasivam (2014).