THE INFLUENCE OF AGE ON VOCABULARY ACQUISITION
IN ENGLISH AS A FOREIGN LANGUAGE

Tesi doctoral presentada per

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com a requeriment per a l’obtenció del títol de

Doctora en Filologia Anglesa

Programa de Doctorat: Lingüística Aplicada
(Bienni 2000-2002)
Departament de Filologia Anglesa i Alemanya

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Universitat de Barcelona

2008
APPENDIX A

TESTS

A.1 Students’ Questionnaire

GRADE:
SCHOOL:

1. Name:
2. Last name:
3. Age: ______ years
4. Date of birth (dd/mm/yy):
5. Place of birth:
6. Sex: □ Female □ Male
7. Home address:
8. Phone number:
9. Languages you speak at home:
   with your mother__________ with your father__________
   with your siblings__________ with other people (specify)__________
10. Which language do you feel more comfortable with?
    □ Catalan  □ Spanish  □ Both of them
11. (a) Mother’s job:
    (b) Father’s job:
12. At what age did you start learning English?
    In which grade?
    PRIMARIA □ 1 □ 2 □ 3 □ 4 □ 5 □ 6
    EGB □ 1 □ 2 □ 3 □ 4 □ 5 □ 6
    In which type of school? □ State □ Private
    How many hours of English per week did you take in Primaria or EGB?
13. Did you repeat any grades? Which one(s)?
14. Have you ever or are you currently learning extracurricular English?
    In which language school?
    At which age did you start?
    For how long?
    How many hours approximately per week?
    □ More than 4h per week  □ 4h per week  □ 3h per week
    □ 2h per week □ 1h per week
15. Have you ever been to an English-speaking country?
    □ yes  □ no
    How many times?
    Where?
Appendices

How old were you? For how long?
With whom?
Did you take an English course?
16. Which mark did you get in English last year?
17. Have you ever studied any other foreign languages?
Which one/s?
Where?
For how long?
Grades awarded:
18. Do you like learning English?
☐ Yes ☐ No
Why?
19. When you learn English in class or you study it at home, do you use any tricks or tips that help you in the process? That is to say, what do you do in order to (answer the following questions)?
   a. to remember the meaning of English words?
   b. to learn English pronunciation?
   c. to remember the spelling of new English words?
20. And in order to understand what you read in English, do you use any tips?
21. Finally, do you use any tricks or tips in order to write English sentences correctly?
22. Have you ever read books in English? ☐ Yes ☐ No
   If your answer is YES, specify what kind of readings and the amount:
   Readers
   ☐ Less than 5 ☐ Between 5 and 10 ☐ More than 10
   Unabridged stories
   ☐ Less than 5 ☐ Between 5 and 10 ☐ More than 10
   Unabridged comic books
   ☐ Less than 5 ☐ Between 5 and 10 ☐ More than 10
   Unabridged books
   ☐ Less than 5 ☐ Between 5 and 10 ☐ More than 10
   Others (specify)
   ☐ Less than 5 ☐ Between 5 and 10 ☐ More than 10
23. Have you ever listened to English outside school?
   ☐ Never ☐ Sometimes ☐ Very often
   If your answer is YES, specify through which means:
   TV programmes ☐ Never ☐ Sometimes ☐ Very often
   Radio programmes ☐ Never ☐ Sometimes ☐ Very often
   Movies (with or without subtitles)
   ☐ Never ☐ Sometimes ☐ Very often
   Songs ☐ Never ☐ Sometimes ☐ Very often
   Others (specify) ☐ Never ☐ Sometimes ☐ Very often
24. Have you ever spoken English outside school?
   ☐ Never ☐ Sometimes ☐ Very often
   If your answer is YES, with whom?
Appendices

25. Do you participate in the English class?
☐ Never ☐ Sometimes ☐ Very often

Do you participate in English?
☐ Never ☐ Sometimes ☐ Very often

26. When you do not understand or you do not know how to say something in English, what do you do?
Keep silent ☐ Rarely ☐ Often
I search for other words ☐ Rarely ☐ Often
I ask for help ☐ Rarely ☐ Often
I shift into Catalan or Spanish ☐ Rarely ☐ Often
Other __________________ ☐ Rarely ☐ Often

27. When you speak in English and they do not understand you, what do you do?
Do you correct what you said? ☐ Rarely ☐ Often
Do you repeat what you said? ☐ Rarely ☐ Often
Appendices

A.2 Written tests

Cloze Test

Now you’ll read a story where some words are missing. You will know when a word is missing because there appears a line in its place. On each line you can ONLY write ONE word, and contractions (e.g. “isn’t”) count as a single word.

La Caputxeta Vermella
(LITTLE RED RIDING HOOD)

A

Hello. I am “La Caputxeta Vermella”.
My favourite colour is (1)__________
I am ten years old.
I live with my parents.
I have got no (2)__________or sisters.
I have got a grandmother.
She is (3)__________years old.

B

Once upon a time, there was a little girl. She was a very good girl. Her grandmother loved the girl (4)__________lot and she often gave her presents. One day Little Red Riding Hood’s (5)__________made her a beautiful red cape and hood. The little (6)__________liked it a lot and she always wore (7)__________cape and hood.

Little Red Riding Hood lived with her mother and father (8)__________a village near a large forest. Her mother worked at home and her (9)__________worked in the forest. He was a woodcutter.

Little Red Riding Hood’s grandmother (10)__________a kilometre away. She lived alone in a little (11)__________inside the forest. Little Red Riding Hood loved her grandmother and every (12)__________she went to visit her.

C

One day her mother called her (13)__________said, “Little Red Riding Hood, there (14)__________a cake and a bottle of milk in this basket. I (15)__________like you to take it to your grandmother. She (16)__________ill this morning and she needs to eat.”

Before the (17)__________left, her mother told her “Be careful and (18)__________stop to play in the forest. And walk carefully. Don’t run or you (19)__________break the bottle. Then you will have no milk for your (20)__________.” Little Red Riding Hood took the basket. Then she (21)__________goodbye to her mother and started to walk to her grandmother’s (22)__________.

Ten minutes later, Little Red Riding Hood (23)__________a wolf. She had never seen a wolf before and she (24)__________not know he was a bad creature. She thought he (25)__________a large dog and she was not afraid of (26)__________.

“Good morning, Little Red Riding Hood. Where are you going so early (27)__________the morning?” asked the wolf. “To my grandmother’s house,” she answered.

Then the wolf asked her, “And what have (28)__________got in your basket?” Little Red Riding Hood said, “A cake and some (29)__________. My grandmother is ill and this basket is (30)__________her.”

Note: The version with 25 gaps did not contain items 1,2,3,10 and 12.
A.3 Oral tests

A.3.1 Semi-guided Oral Interview

1. What is your name?
2. How old are you?
3. Do you like this school?
4. What time did you arrive this morning?
5. When will you leave?
6. What will you do when you finish today?
7. What do you like to do in your free time?
8. What did you do last weekend?
9. Let’s talk about your family now. How many brothers and sisters have you got? (Talk about them).
10. Which language do you speak with your parents/with your mother/father?
11. Where do you live?
12. How many people live in your house?
13. How many rooms are there?
14. Tell me about your room. How many (beds, etc) are there?

A.3.2 Storytelling

I am going to show you a little story. Can you tell me the story? It begins here...

If s/he needs some help at some point:
Where are they going here? (n.3)
Why is the basket empty? / Who has eaten their food? (n.6)
A.3.3 Roleplay

Now you are going to do something with another student from your class, so let’s move to.../let’s see/let’s wait...Let’s pretend A is a mother/father and B is a boy/girl who wants to have a party on Friday after school. Decide on:

-where to have the party;
-who to invite;
-what to buy to eat and drink;
-time to start and finish;
-activities / games to play.