

The Impact of Interactive Discussions (S-CMC) on Essay Writing in Swahili as a Foreign Language

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Swahili speaking regions

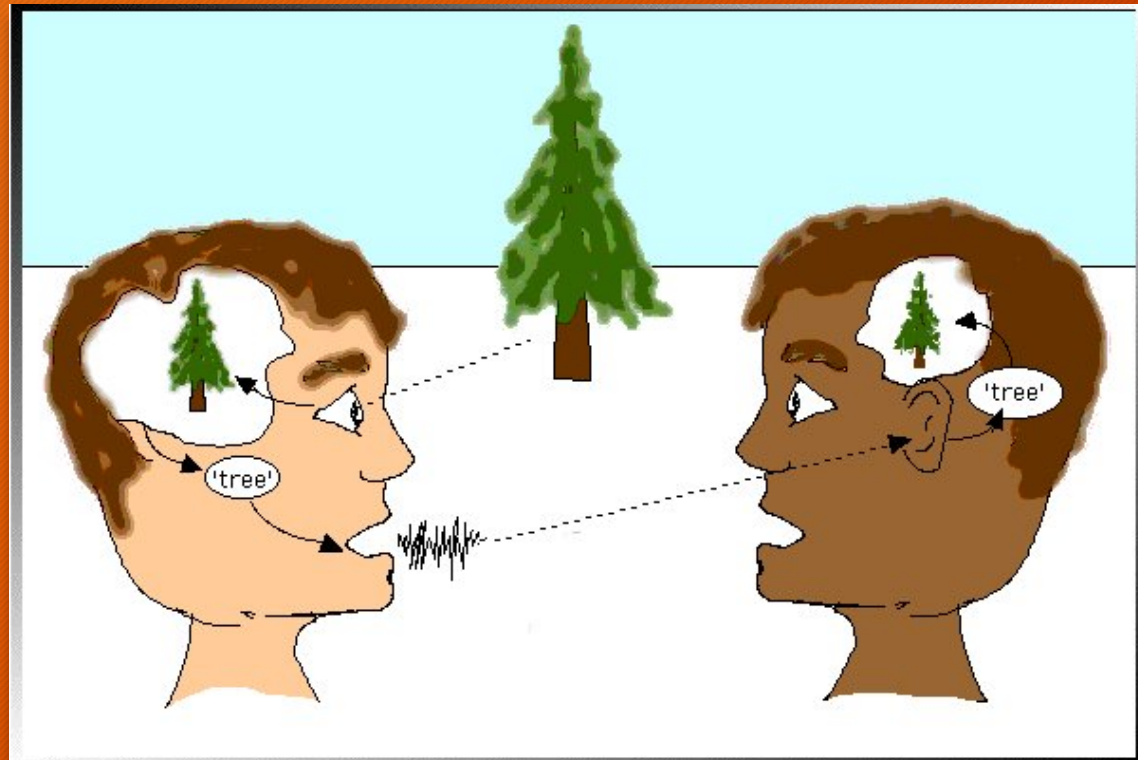


S-CMC and transfer to ESSAY writing



Theoretical framework

Interaction Hypothesis (Michael Long 1983)



Theoretical Framework

Collaborative social cultural theory
(Vygotsky 1978)



Table 1.0 Topics assigned during the five S-CMC sessions

S-CMC	Task
S-CMC 1	Types of food in East Africa. Vyakula vya Afrika Mashariki
S-CMC 2	The presidents of countries in East Africa. Marais wa nchi za Afrika Mashariki
S-CMC 3	Cities of East Africa. Miji mbalimbali ya Afrika Mashariki
S-CMC 4	Religions of East Africa. Dini za Afrika Mashariki
S-CMC 5	Visiting animal parks and game reserves. Ziara ya safari katika Afrika Mashariki

Table 1.1 Conventions adopted for transcription

Transcribing indication	Category
###	Sections that were unintelligible
< L2 > WORD < / L2 >	Words written in another language

Table 2.0 Mean overall length, mean number of turns, and mean turn length for the S-CMC chat (N=23)

	Mean	Standard Deviation
Number of words	285.17	70.82
Number of turns	25.04	9.29
Turn length	11.16	9.08

Table 2.1 Percentages of individual language contribution during the S-CMC chat sessions

Dyad	Participant	Language contribution				
		Session 1	Session 2	Session 3	Session 4	Session 5
1	Abdi	42.18%	47.3%	38.15%	45.32%	41.76%
	Bibi	57.82%	52.7%	61.85%	54.68%	58.24%
2	Chapa	N/A	N/A	45.22%	28.28%	49.8%
	Dalili	N/A	N/A	54.78%	71.72%	50.2%
3	Eleza	59.29%	50.73%	40.98%	48.76%	59.34%
	Furaha	40.71%	49.27%	59.02%	51.24%	40.66%
4	Gaidi	45.04%	46.48%	49.39%	46.39%	40.47%
	Huria	54.96%	53.52%	50.61%	53.61%	59.53%
5	Inuka	54.55%	51.61%	46.99%	51.61%	48.63%
	Jirani	45.45%	48.39%	53.01%	48.39%	51.37%

Table 2.2 Mean scores during the 23 S-CMC sessions across participants

	Lexical quality score	Grammatical accuracy score	Content richness score
Mean	3.7	3.5	4.2
Standard Deviation	0.136	0.188	0.160

Table 2.3 Mean scores for each dyad

	Lexical quality	Grammatical accuracy	Content richness
Abdi/Bibi (N=5)	3.75	3.65	4.02
Chapa/Dalili (N=3)	3.57	3.7	4.25
Eleza/Furaha (N=5)	3.6	3.47	4.32
Gaidi/Huria (N=5)	3.77	3.3	4.36
Inuka/Jirani (N=5)	3.77	3.38	4.06

Table 3.0 Mean scores of all essays that participants wrote immediately after the S-CMC chat sessions. (N=46)

	NoW	SpA	LA	LR	SA	SR	CR	O	HA
Mean	236.17	96.65%	97.8%	56.87%	91.76	52.39%	71.39%	3.70	3.54
Standard Deviation	58.8	0.822	0.71	1.35	0.91	1.41	1.94	0.18	0.19

Legend: NoW- Number of Words; SpA- Spelling accuracy; LA- Lexical Accuracy; LR- Lexical Richness; SA- Syntactic Accuracy; SR- Syntactic Richness; CR- Content Richness; O- Organization; HA- Holistic Assessment.

Transfer of grammar structures from the S-CMC chats to the essays - Example 1

In essay 4, Abdi wrote “*Alisema kwamba wakati alienda nchini Kenya aliona watu waislamu wengi na waliimba sana wakati waliomba*” [She said that when they went to Kenya she saw many Muslims and they sang a lot when they prayed]. Abdi’s essay references Bibi’s statements in S-CMC transcript 4 and 12, “*Wakati nilienda Kenya, watu wengi ni Islam...Nilion watu katika Kenya, watu Baadhi walienda kanisa na watu wengine walienda mahali na kuomba*” [When I went to Kenya many people are Muslims...I saw many people in Kenya, Some of them went to church and others went to places to pray].

Transfer of lexicon-related episodes from the S-CMC chats to the essays - Example 2

Abdi's essay 4 included episodes from their chat. He wrote, "*Bibi alisema kwamba halijui maana ya neno "dini" ... Yeye anachoka sana! Maana ya "dini" ni kwa karatasi na hata katika Kiingereza. Halafu Bibi anaona karatasi, alikumbuka maana ya neno "dini" na yeye alisema kwamba kuna dini zingine nchini Kenya, kama dini wa Kristo.*" [Bibi said that she didn't know the meaning of the word "religion" ... She was very tired! The meaning of "religion" is on the paper and it is also provided in English. And then Bibi looked at the paper, and remembered the meaning of the word "religion" and she said there are other religions in Kenya, such as Christian religion.] Abdi made the above statement in response to the questions that were posed by Bibi about the meaning of the word 'religion' in S-CMC chat transcripts 5, 6, 7, and 8. The questions are visible in the exchange that transpires between them, "Abdi: *sawa, na kuna dini nyingine nchini Kenya?* Bibi: *dini ni nini?* Abdi: *dini ni kwa kiingereza. unaona karatasi?* Bibi: *pole, niliona karatasi, ninajua sasa.*" 'Abdi: Okay then, and there are other religions in Kenya. Bibi: what is religion? Abdi: religion is religion in English. Can you see it on the paper? Bibi: I'm sorry, I have seen the paper, I now know.

Discussion and Conclusion

- Equal environment for interacting
- Generating ideas
- Benefiting from the scaffolding
- Becoming very aware of the audience
- No significant relationship with the measure of length
- Fairly high similarity in the lexical, syntactical and content measures
- General ideas from the S-CMC chat sessions to develop essays
- Transfer of lexical items from S-CMC chat to essay writing
- Participants who volunteered to provide explanations of some of the lexical items that their interlocutors asked during the S-CMC chat were the ones who utilized those lexical items in their writing

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