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A Study on the Acquisition of English Function-chains: A Focus on Japanese EFL Learners

This book focuses on the process by which Japanese EFL learners acquire the pragmatic competence to recognize the appropriateness of function-chains (the sequence of functions). Appropriateness of language is considered to be one of the most important factors contributing to communicative competence. Recognizing that fact, this work distinguishes itself from other works in the following areas:

- While the majority of interlanguage pragmatics research has been primarily a study of L2 use rather than L2 learning, this book focuses on interlanguage pragmatics from a developmental perspective.
- Previous studies have largely overlooked beginning-level learners. Therefore, this work expands learner populations to include beginning English learners (Japanese junior high school students), and investigates the early stages of pragmatic development.
- Finally, taking into account that functions never occur by themselves, but always in a sequence of conversational moves, this work concerns itself with the sequence of functions (function-chains), rather than a single utterance.

This research seeks to provide important insights into designing courses and materials which lead students towards greater fluency, and should be of benefit to teachers, academics, and others working in the field of English language education.

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