Finding 'Who':
Position of Antecedent Hypothesis in Non-native Spanish

This study aims to examine Carminati (2002)'s Position of Antecedent Hypothesis (PAH) in non-native Spanish by Korean learners who already have experience of learning English. PAH argues that there is a division of labor between null and overt subject and that the native speakers of null subject language prefer to link *pro* to an antecedent in specifier of inflection phrase while assigning overt subject to an antecedent in the lower position of the clause. Among many studies that confirmed the prediction made by the hypothesis, it is important to mention two studies. Kweon (2011) tested PAH to native Koreans and affirmed that, as well as in Italian, Korean null and overt subject alternation and the processing of each anaphora are subject to different mechanism. Meanwhile, Keating et al. (2011) studied Spanish anaphora resolution in a non-native context (L1 English) and the L2 learners of Spanish did not show any significant complementary distribution between null and overt subject pronoun, processing both as in some state of free variation. Motivated by these studies, I wanted to confirm how Korean learners behave in Spanish contexts where anaphora resolution following PAH is expected in both their native language and the target language. It was assumed that the preference to follow PAH would be found from the early stages of acquisition, if there is only L1 transfer in the process. It must be addressed that Spanish and Korean share similar pattern in subject realization. In Spanish, unless the subject is a focus or a contrastive topic of the sentence, it is unmarked to drop the subject and the verbal inflection recovers the subject. In Korean, unless the subject is a focus or a contrastive topic of the sentence, the topic subject is dropped for the unmarked interpretation and the subject is recovered from the context. However, in English, every sentence must have a lexical subject. Capturing only the essence found in the subject realization among these languages, the anaphora resolution following PAH and the correct use of null and overt subject should be found in Korean learners' data even at beginners' level in contrast to the data from the learners whose L1 is non *pro*-drop language such as English. To confirm whether PAH is also applicable in the given non-native context, offline questionnaire (IRB No. E1611/003-004) was conducted via internet which contained one hundred and eleven items that consists of three parts: (i) Language Background, (ii) Proficiency Test and (iii) Actual Test. A total of sixty learners participated in the survey and later they were divided into three groups (Beginner, Intermediate, Advanced), primarily based on the result from the Proficiency Test and few were adjusted considering the total years of learning Spanish. All participants were native in Korean and learned English at school and later started to learn Spanish in a formal educational setting. (*Details of participants in Table 1.*) Thirty critical items in the Actual Test were the translated materials from Carminati's *Experiment 2* which were globally ambiguous sentences, and thirty distractors were adopted from Alonso-Ovalle et al.(2002). The participants were asked first to find "*who*" the anaphora (*pro* or overt subject) was referring to, and then they had to mark how certain they were in the scale of 1 to 5. (*Example of the questionnaire in Table 2.*) In the result, selection of anaphora following PAH was found only in the intermediate and advanced group, that anaphoric behavior was significantly contrastive between null and overt condition. However, the outcome from those at beginners' level turned out to be very similar to that of L1-English learners reported in the former study: the overt pronoun did not seem to receive switch-reference interpretation and its interpretative scope was not nativelike (*Summary of the result in Table 3.*) For now, it seems that the participants at the early stages were transferring L2 English instead of L1 Korean. Also, in my other studies that applied translation task, Korean learners showed clear tendency to inaccurately transfer L2 English feature in L3 Spanish subject use, overgeneralizing explicit subject and repeating overt subject in every context. The result of this study can be understood in the same context, that the L2 transfer hindered the learners at the beginners' level to notice the division of labor between null and overt subject in Spanish which they are already familiar to thanks to their native language.

Table 1. Details of Participants (*n*=60)

	Beginners	Intermediates	Advanced
Proficiency test score *(A total of 43)*	27	39	42
Total years of learning Spanish	less than 6 mnth	~less than 3 yrs.	more than 3 yrs.
Self-reported proficiency of English *(scale of 1~5)*	3.35	3.76	4.05
Self-reported proficiency of Spanish *(scale of 1~5)*	1.85	3.42	4.05

*For all participants, their L1 was Korean, L2 English and L3 Spanish respectively.

Table 2. Example of the Questionnaire (Part. *Actual Test*)

I. Marta le escribía frecuentemente a Paloma cuando estaba en los EEUU.(*null pronoun condition*)
    1. ¿Quién estaba en los Estados Unidos ?   □ Marta estaba en los EEUU.
                                                            □ Paloma estaba en los EEUU.
    2. How certain are you of your answer above?   1 □ 2 □ 3 □ 4 □ 5 □

II. Pedro no habla con Víctor desde cuando él renunció. (*overt pronoun condition*)
    1. ¿Quién renunció?   □ Pedro renunció.
                                          □ Víctor renunció.
    2. How certain are you of your answer above?   1 □ 2 □ 3 □ 4 □ 5 □

*Each items were randomly presented including distractor items.
**Language Background (8 items), Proficiency Test (43 items), Actual Test (60 items)

Table 3. Summary of the Result

		Subject Antecedent	Object Antecedent	Certainty Scale
Beginner	Null	**59.3%**	40.7%	3.14
	Overt	40.7%	**49.7%**	2.96
Intermediate	Null	**71.3%**	28.7%	3.15
	Overt	37.7%	**62.3%**	3.20
Advanced	Null	**80.3%**	19.7%	3.55
	Overt	25.0%	**75.0%**	3.52

*Anaphora resolution bias expected in PAH is in bold.

Reference

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