

Abstract

Modern Chinese Potential Complement “V de C”, “V bu C” is one of the required grammar points for foreign students to acquire. However, it is one of the most difficult grammar points to grasp. Potential Complement and “neng / bu neng VC” can easily cause difficulty or confusion for Thai students.

In order to reduce the errors of Thai students, this thesis, first, compared “V de C”, “V bu C” with “neng / bu neng VC”. A database was formed to compare the grammatical and semantic uses. These differences influence the student’s usage. Secondly, the Potential Complement was compared to corresponding Thai words. It indicated three types of correlations; high correspondence, partial correspondence and least correspondence. Two surveys were designed based upon the above comparisons.

According to the error analysis of surveys, there are two types of errors: misuse and syntactic. There are three important factors influencing “V de C”, “V bu C” acquisition: overgeneralization of target language, negative transfer of mother language and usage of communicative strategies.

Based upon the analysis the research concludes that there are three types of correlations between Potential Complement and Thai correspondent words: high correspondence, partial correspondence and least correspondence. The results of the surveys confirm the obvious types of errors are misuse. The misuse of “V de / bu C” can also be divided into two types: the replacement of “neng / bu neng VC”, and the replacement of other Potential Complement; “V de/bu liao” , “V de/bu de” . In the process of acquiring “V de C”, “V bu C”, the acquisition circumstances correspond with Interlanguage Theory, in which the improvement increases as the level of proficiency increases and in turn errors are reduced. Also, factors causing errors are

target language transfer, mother tongue transfer, insufficient explanations from textbooks, teaching styles and learning strategies.

There are mother tongue influences in “V de C”, “V bu C” acquisition. According to the analysis of how correlations between Potential Complement and Thai correspondent words influence four types of Potential Complements in the questionnaire, it is found that when Thai students use “V de C” (direction), if the correlation is partial correspondence, there is quite obvious negative transfer of mother tongue. Comparing four types of Potential Complements (V bu C result, V de C result, V bu C direction and V de C direction) the easiest one to acquire is “V bu C” (result). The order of difficulty changes based upon Chinese proficiency.

Keyword: Potential Complement Second language acquisition Chinese and Thai comparison Thai student Acquisition observation

