

**Individual Paper Session 25**  
**Processing and Syntax**  
**Thursday, July 6**  
**3:45-4:15pm**

**Developing tense morphosyntax: A case study of L2 French**

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Accuracy of verb tense in the production of “Eleanor,” advanced anglophone learner of L2 French, is examined considering two UG approaches to L2 learning of verbal features. Representational Deficit (RD, Hawkins & Chan 1997) says functional features are limited to L1 values; Full Access-Mapping (FAM, Schwartz & Sprouse 1996, Lardiere 2000) allows acquisition of new values.

Anglophone learners of L2 French need to gain overt morphology and revised features of Tense, for which the approaches predict opposite developments: RD claims a deficit restricts functional features to native values and causes morphological errors. FAM claims L2 parameter values may eventually be gained and inflectional errors are due not to syntactic deficits, but to mapping difficulties.

Three interviews over eight months immersion document Eleanor’s morphosyntactic development (tokens of non-finite/finite verbs and finite errors, Table 1).

Int	V-fin	V+fin	Total	Errs +fin	% Error
I	46	189	235	1	.5%
II	42	225	267	0	0%
III	47	224	271	0	0%

Table 1

Although Eleanor produces numerous lexical and other grammatical errors, she uses all persons of verbal inflection and makes no errors of non-finite, nominative subject, or past/future tense. Error free verb use by Int III indicates mastery of person/number/tense inflection and correct specification of features for French Tense and Agreement, supporting FAM over RD. One error indicates mapping, not flawed syntax.

Eleanor’s French data supports FAM’s proposal of eventual L2 feature mastery over RD’s restriction to L1 values.