

## UNACCUSATIVE AND UNERGATIVE VERBS IN L2 ENGLISH

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### ABSTRACT

A number of studies in the second language (L2) research argue that a general unergative-unaccusative distinction is made syntactically and semantically in adult L2 acquisition. Attempts to provide empirical evidence of the L2 English unergative-unaccusative distinction by adult Chinese speakers have only recently begun to appear. The present study investigates the acquisition of unergative and unaccusative verbs in L2 English by adult Chinese speakers. One hundred and twenty-one L1 Chinese speakers of different levels of English proficiency participated in a judgment test and a Chinese-English translation task. It is argued that the results are consistent with proposals made by Yip (1995) and Balcom (1997) which argue for overgeneralization of passive morphology to unaccusative verbs in L2 English. The results also show that, contrary to findings in the literature, learners have persistent difficulty establishing native-like syntactic realization of unergative verbs in L2 English: unergative verbs seem to have been interpreted as transitive verbs. It is speculated that the low accuracy on unergative verbs can be accounted for when Case assignment and the absence of positive evidence that unergative+NP construction is not allowed in English are factored in.

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## 非作格與非賓格動詞的二語英語習得

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### 提要

許多研究提出成年二語習得上，非作格與非賓格動詞有著句法和語義上的差異；因此，近期有些研究企圖提出實證來證明。本文探討英語為二語的成年華人在非作格與非賓格動詞的習得現象。一百二十位擁有不同程度英語能力的華人參與此項測驗，包含語法判斷測驗與英漢

翻譯測驗。結果論證 Yip (1995) 和 Balcom (1997) 的理論，即在二語英語中，被動構詞的過渡性會映射到非賓格動詞上。不同以往文獻的發現，結論也顯示學習者在二語為英語上不容易達到如同母語者對於非作格動詞的呈現-非作格動詞又被解釋作及物動詞。據推論，格位賦值與非作格+NP 結構不被英語允許的證據缺乏都被考慮在內時，非作格動詞的低準確性可以被用來解釋這些現象。

關鍵字

非作格 非賓格 交替性非作格 母語遷移

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