A default preference for local readings of reflexives: evidence from L2 Turkish and L2 English
The interpretation of reflexives has received considerable attention in L2 acquisition research, finding evidence for both L1 transfer and a universal preference for local antecedents. Japanese learners of Mandarin (whose L1 allows long distance (LD) antecedents of *zibun*) correctly allowed LD antecedents for the Chinese reflexive *ziji*, while English learners of Mandarin did not[1]. Against L1 transfer, neither Korean nor English learners of Mandarin allowed the LD reading for *ziji*, despite Korean reflexives allowing LD antecedents[2]. On studies where the L2 allows a subset of the interpretations, Turkish intermediate learners of English (Turkish *kendisi* and *kendi* allow both local and LD interpretations[4]) failed to reject non-local antecedents for English reflexives when this was the pragmatically preferred reading[3].

We focus on L2 Turkish and L2 English, elaborating on Chen and Ionin (2022)[2] who propose that the low acceptability of LD readings for *ziji* by L2 learners can either be due to a universal preference for local readings of reflexives or due to input properties specific to *zijj* (*ziji* being used infrequently in the input and according to some studies barely acceptable with LD readings by native Mandarin speakers (Chen, 1995)). Like Mandarin, Turkish reflexives allow a superset of the binding interpretations available in English. Unlike Mandarin, which also has the locally bound reflexive *taziji,* all Turkish reflexives allow LD interpretations. This, as well as the widely accepted use of *kendi(si)* with LD readings[4], may facilitate acquisition. No previous study included a production task or examed a superset (Turkish) and subset (English) language in both directions.

We administered a Picture Description Task (PD) and a picture-based Truth Value Judgment task (TVJ) with eight English and 17 Turkish native speakers, intermediate and advanced L2 Turkish speakers (n=20) and L2 English speakers (n=12). Results show that while intermediate English learners occasionally use *himself/herself* with LD readings, advanced participants perform target-like. For L2 Turkish, even advanced participants fail to acquire *kendi* and *kendisi* with LD antecedents, while NS allow and use both forms with LD interpretations.

The findings provide evidence in favour of a universal preference for local antecedents in the acquisition of reflexives, as L2 English speakers performed target-like despite the fact that subset grammars are arguably more difficult to acquire. Similarly, despite the available evidence in the input for *kendi* and *kendisi* with LD interpretations, L2 Turkish speakers failed to accept reflexives with LD readings. Our results are furthermore interesting for comparison with earlier studies on Turkish heritage speakers who perform target-like with Turkish reflexives[6].

Example items sampling Turkish and English reflexives
(1) a. Elif$_i$ [Emel'in$_k$ kendi-ni$_{i/k/*m}$/kendi-si-ni$_{i/k/m}$ o-nu$_{i/*k/m}$ begen-me-si]-ni   isti-yor.
        Elif   Emel-GEN   self-ACC   self-3SG-ACC s/he-ACC like-NOM-3SG-ACC want-PROG
        'Elif$_i$ wants Emel$_k$ to like herself-himself$_{i/k/*m}$ / herself-himself$_{i/k/m}$ / her-him$_{i/*k/m}$'
    b. Elif$_i$ wants Emel$_k$ to like herself$_{*i/k/*m}$ / her$_{i/*k/m}$ (Adapted from Gurel 2002, p. 39)

Table 1. Picture Description Task
(Showing % use of pronoun or reflexive per condition)

	English			Turkish		
	Pronoun	Reflexive		Pronoun	*Kendi*	*Kendisi*
Native			**Native**			
Local	0	100	Local	3	72	25
LD	100	0	LD	74	9	17
Int. L2			**Int. L2**			
Local	9	91	Local	7	67	26
LD	71	29	LD	95	5	0
Adv. L2			**Adv. L2**			
Local	0	100	Local	6	84	10
LD	89	11	LD	86	10	4

Table 2. Truth Value Judgement
(Showing % acceptance rate per condition)

	English			Turkish		
	Pronoun	*Reflexive*		*Pronoun*	*Kendi*	*Kendisi*
Native			**Native**			
Local	0	90	Local	12	82	68
LD	100	10	LD	93	58	79
Int. L2			**Int. L2**			
Local	12	97	Local	26	93	94
LD	94	19	LD	92	22	29
Adv. L2			**Adv. L2**			
Local	11	97	Local	15	90	81
LD	94	19	LD	96	17	23

References

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