

On the use of the posture verbs *staan*, *liggen* and *zitten* by German- and French-speaking learners of Dutch

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Structure

- Introduction
- Our study
- Quantitative analysis
- Qualitative analysis
- Discussion

Typological background

- Tricky matter for French-speaking learners
 - Even at a high level of FL proficiency
- Typological differences between French and Dutch



Typological background

- Tricky matter for French-speaking learners
 - Even at a high level of FL proficiency
- Typological differences between French and Dutch
- 3 interrelated problems (cf. Lemmens 2002)
 - 1) Get accustomed to **using** a posture verb
=> **coding obligation**
 - 2) Decide **which** posture verb to use
=> **coding variation**
 - 3) Deal with the **metaphorical extensions**
=> **coding flexibility**

Background

- Lemmens & Perrez (2010) > corpus study
- Use of *staan*, *liggen* & *zitten* by French-speaking learners
- Main observations
 - 1) Underuse of the posture verbs
 - 2) Error analysis: 2 main types of errors
 - **Posture verb confusion:** wrong posture verb chosen
*de landen die vlak bij de zee *staan ...* (DL2-S-0012)
 - **Posture verb panic:** posture verb not possible in a given context
*De vrouw *staat [is] een beetje wanhopig omdat ze wilde dat haar man de tuintrap verft* (DL2-s-0205)

Aims of our study

- Corpus analysis of the use of the Dutch posture verbs by German-speaking learners
 - German: typologically related with Dutch
 - Talmy: verb-framed vs. satellite-framed languages
 - German learners: fewer problems?
- Compare the results to the use by French-speaking learners
 - Assess to what extent these learners show similar patterns of use

Semantic networks of the Dutch PV's (cf. Lemmens 2002)

- Structured around a prototype
= representation of the three basic human postures
- Extended uses
- 3 types of uses
 - **Postural** uses => human position
 - **Locational** uses => location of any entity in space
 - **Metaphorical** uses
 - ⇒ Location in abstract space
 - ⇒ Location of abstract entities in concrete space

STAAN / STEHEN

Use	Description	NL	D
Postural	Be on a BASE	<i>De stoelen staan in de woonkamer</i>	<i>Die Teller stehen auf dem Tisch (SB)</i>
Locational	Extend upward from base	<i>Er staan geen takken meer aan deze boom</i>	<i>Mit dem Supergel stehen die Haare den ganzen Tag</i>
	Verticality in absence of a base	<i>De borden staan in de afwasmachine</i>	<i>Die Teller stehen in der Spülmaschine</i>
Metaphorical	Being in canonical position	<i>Tegenwoordig staan veel jonge gezinnen voor een</i>	<i>Er steht vor einem Problem / dilemma</i>
	Written text	<i>Wat staat er op deze pagina?</i>	<i>Was steht an der Tafel?</i>

LIGGEN / LIEGEN

Use	Description	NL	D
Postural	Be on one's side	<i>Hij ligt in bed</i>	<i>Er liegt im Bett</i>
	Not be on a base with horizontal orientation	<i>Waar liggen de schoenen?</i>	<i>Wo liegen die Schuhe?</i>
Locational	Location of dimension-less entities	<i>De bal ligt in het gras</i> <i>De zout ligt op tafel</i>	<i>Der Ball liegt im Gras</i> <i>Das Salz liegt auf dem Tisch</i>
	Geotopographical location	<i>De kerk lag pal voor ons</i>	<i>Die Kirche lag vor uns</i>
Metaphorical	Abstract entities	<i>De verantwoordelijkheid ligt bij jou</i>	<i>Die Verantwortung liegt bei dir</i>

ZITTEN / SITZEN

Use	Description	NL	D
Postural	Be in a sitting posture	<i>Er zit een vrouw aan tafel</i>	<i>Es sitzt eine Frau an dem Tisch</i>
	Be in a sitting posture (small animals)	<i>Er zit een vlieg op het plafond</i>	<i>Eine Fliege sitzt auf dem Kuchen/ an der Decke</i>
Locational	Containment	<i>Hij zit in de gevangenis</i>	<i>Er sitzt im Gefängnis</i>
	Contact	<i>Er zit geen deurknop aan deze deur</i>	<i>Die Schraube sitzt nicht</i>
Metaphorical	Containment	<i>Ik zit in de problemen</i>	<i>Er sitzt in Problemen</i>
	Contact	<i>Deze broek zit lekker</i>	<i>Das Kleid sitzt nicht</i>

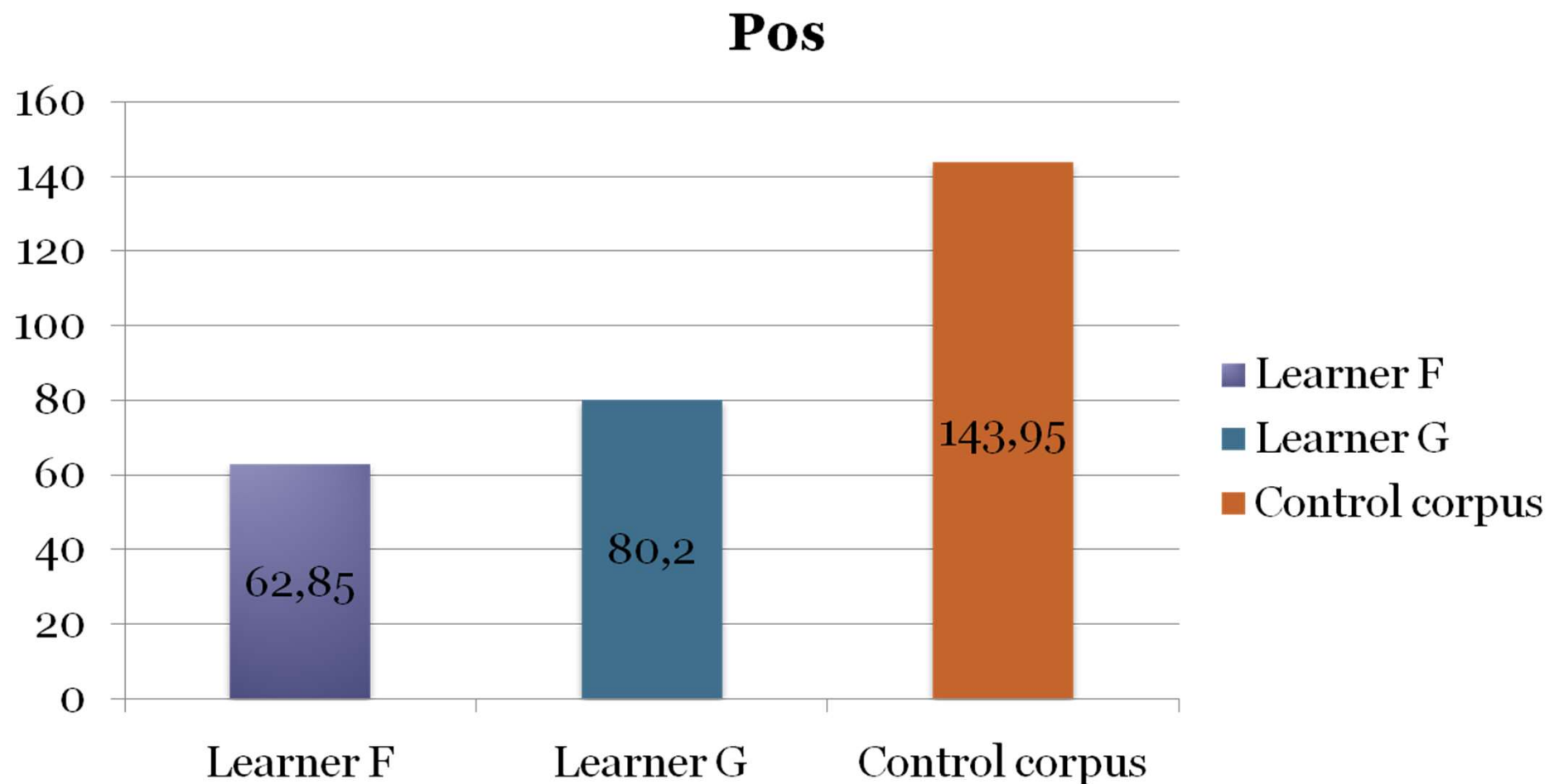
Comparison Dutch-German: similarities

- Semasiologically, it seems one can use the German counterparts of *staan*, *liggen* and *zitten* in approximately the same contexts as in Dutch.
- Except for some idiomatical uses
 - *Wie steht es um ihn?* (>< *gaan*)
 - *Der Motor steht.* (>< *staat stil*)
 - *Geld auf der Bank liegen haben.* (>< *staan*)
 - *Das Kleid steht dir gut.* ()
 - ...

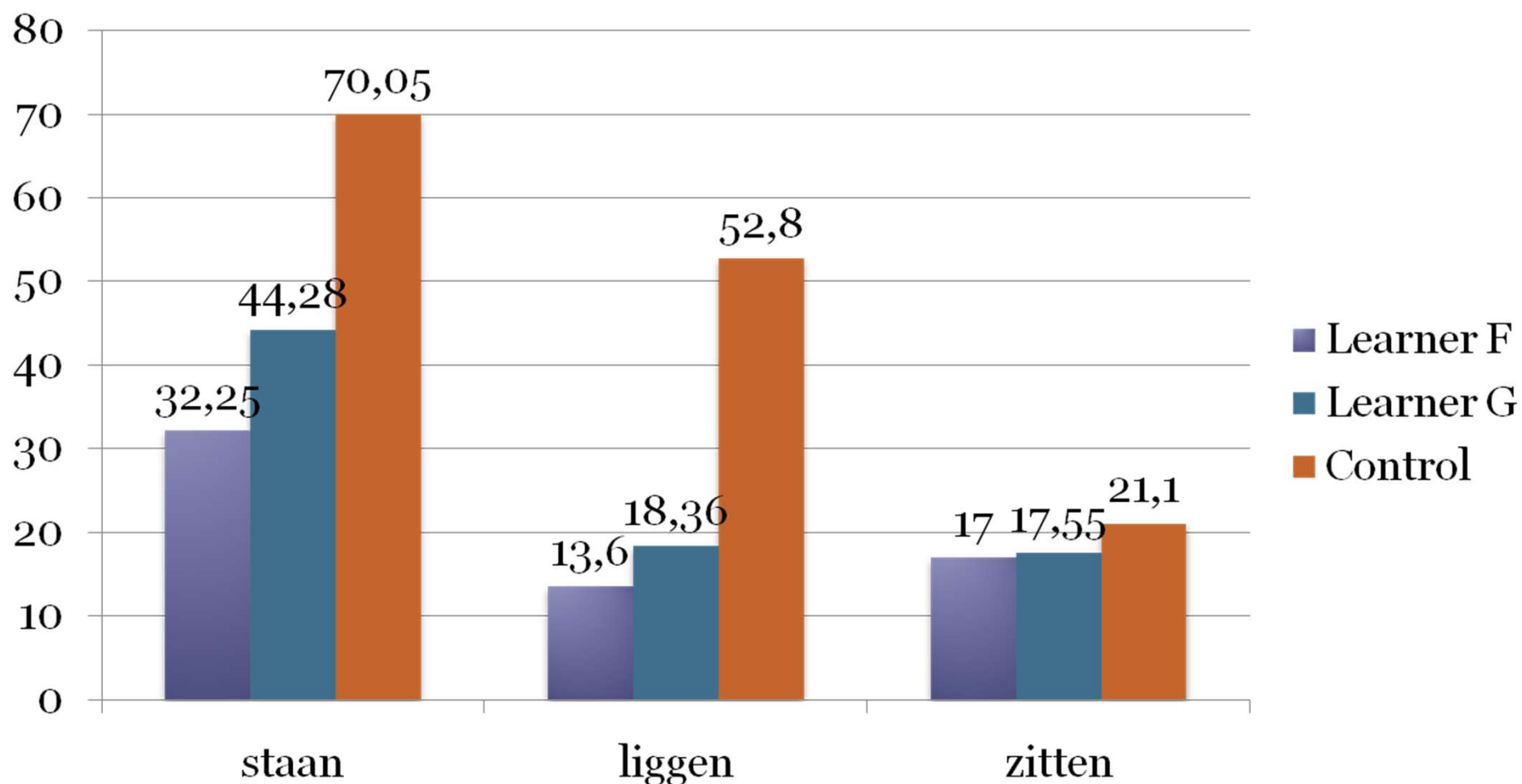
Present study: method

- Corpora
 - Learner corpus (*Leerdercorpus Nederlands*)
 - Different L1-backgrounds
 - French, German, Polish, Indonesian, Hungarian
 - German subcorpus => 185,167 words
 - CNaVT-exams (essays, summaries, reports,...)
 - Control corpus (*Corpus Nederlands door Nederlandstaligen*)
 - Argumentative essays
 - 52,000 words

Overall frequencies of *staan*, *liggen* & *zitten* (/50,000 words)



Overall frequencies of *staan*, *liggen* & *zitten* (/50,000 words)



Overall frequencies

- Natives: **staan** > liggen > zitten
- German-speaking learners: **staan** > liggen > zitten
- French-speaking learners: **staan** > zitten > liggen
- Underuse by both groups of learners
 - French-speaking: 62.85 vs. 143.95 occ. /50,000 w.
 - German-speaking: 80.20 vs. 143.95 occ. / 50,000 w.
 - Less outspoken for *zitten*

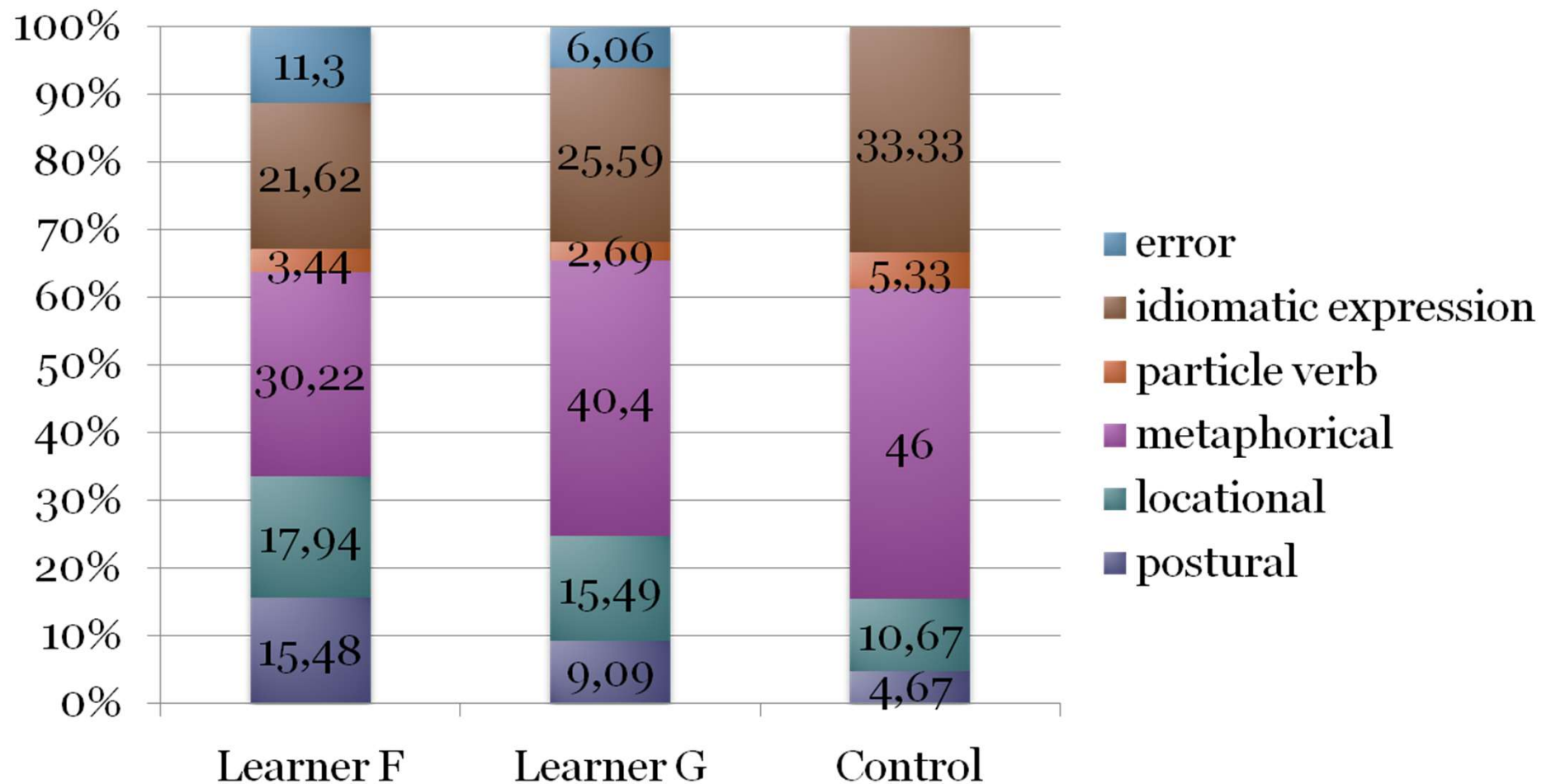
Quantitative analysis

- Coding of the different **semantic categories** *staan*, *liggen* and *zitten* are used in.
- (i) Global level
 - Postural use
 - Locational use
 - Metaphorical use
 - Root of a particle verb construction
 - *Opstaan* ('get up'), *vaststaan* ('it is evident that')
 - Idiomatic expressions
 - Fixed collocational uses
 - *bekend staan*, 'be famous'
 - Fixed multiword unit whose meaning cannot be derived from the meaning of its components in isolation
 - *voor de hand liggen*, ('lie for the hand' = 'be evident')
 - Error

Quantitative analysis

- (ii) more refined level
 - What type of locational usage?
 - *Liggen*: geotopographical location, documents on a desk,...
 - *Zitten*: containment, contact,...
 - What type of metaphorical usage?
 - *Liggen*: abstract entities, scales,....
 - *Staan*: canonical position, written text,...
 - *Zitten*: containment, contact,...
 - What type of errors in the L2 productions?

Types of uses in the different corpora

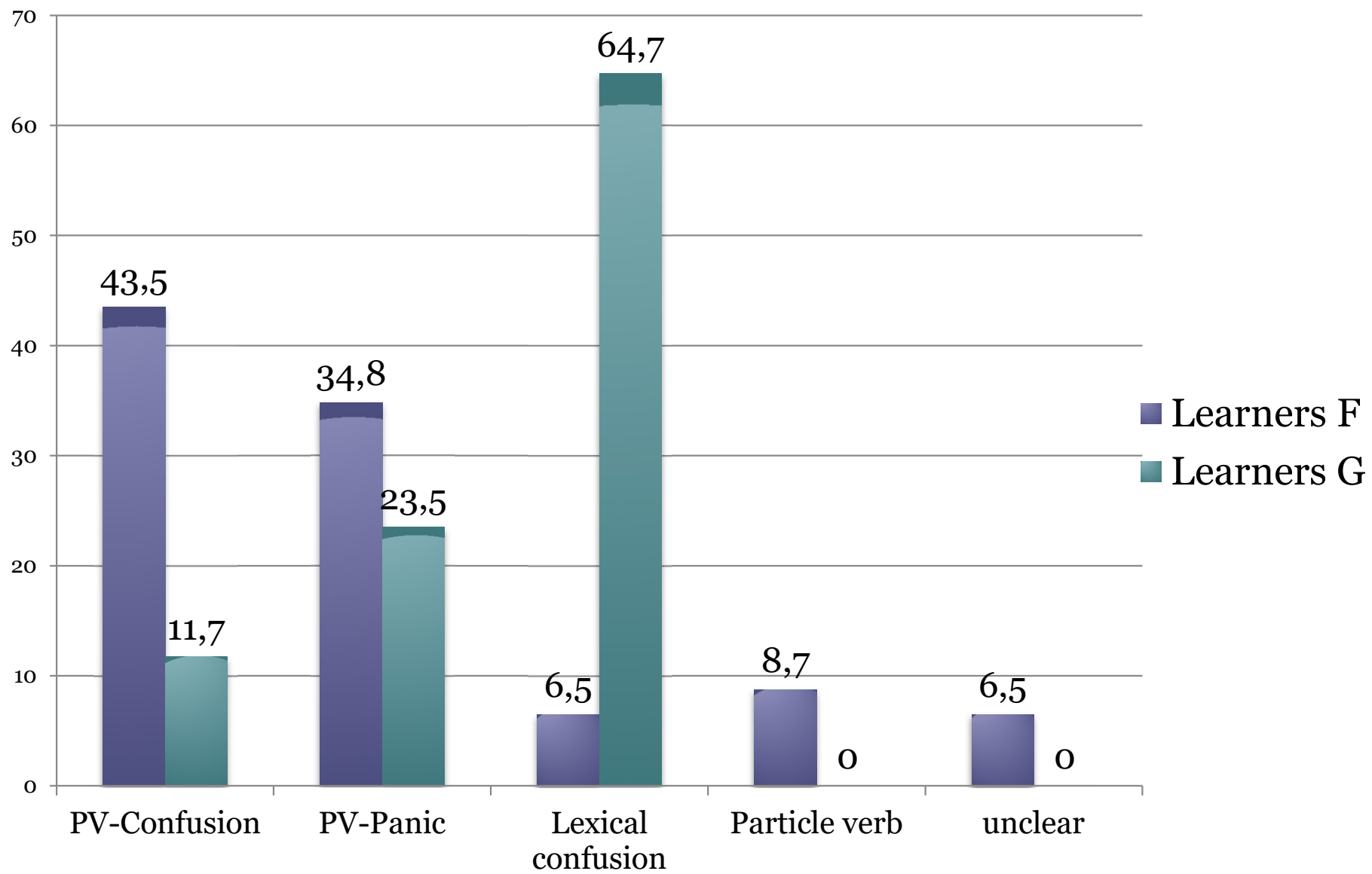


Quantitative analysis

- Postural and locational contexts
 - Learners > Natives
 - F-S learners > G-S learners > Natives
- Metaphorical uses
 - Natives > Learners
 - Natives $\geq$ G-S learners > F-S learners
- Errors
 - F-S learners > G-S learners

Error analysis

- French-speaking learners
 - 46 incorrect uses (11% of the cases)
 - *staan* (65.2%) > *liggen* (19.6%) > *zitten* (15.2%)
- German-speaking learners
 - 17 incorrect uses (6% of the cases)
 - *staan* (58.8%) > *liggen* (23.5%) > *zitten* (17.6%)



Quantitative error analysis

- Types of errors?
 - French-speaking learners
 - 2 main types
 - 1) Wrong verb chosen => **posture verb confusion**
 - 2) Posture verb not possible in a given context => **posture verb panic**
 - German-speaking learners
 - 1 main type: lexical confusion
 - Marginally: posture verb panic & confusion

D-S learners: error analysis

- Lexical confusion (64,7%): PV instead of another verb
 - **Liggen** >< leggen

*Ik denk niet dat de langzame instorting van de maatschappij alleen op de schouders van de jeugd ten laste **gelegen** worden kan.*
(LCN-D, id0005)

*Al vijftig jaren geleden, dat wil zeggen, juist na de tweede wereldoorlog werd het fundament **gelegen** voor een Europese Unie met de shepping van de Europese gemeenschap van kool en staal.*
(LCN-D, id0007)

D-S learners: error analysis

- Lexical confusion (64,7%): negative transfer from MT
 - *Wie steht es um ... ?*

niet precies voorstellen hoe onze leefwijze in twintig, dertig veertig of honderd jaar eruit ziet. Maar ik denk dat het niet erg goed om ons staat. (LCN-D, id 0014)

In Nederland, Frankrijk, Duitsland is het tijd om een nieuwe regering te kiezen en het staat niet goed voor de linker partijen! (LCN-D, id0020)

D-S learners: error analysis

- Lexical confusion (64,7%): negative transfer from MT

*Het zal wel enkele duizende jaren terug **liggen** dat de grondsteen van onze huidige maatschappij gelegd werd. (LCN-D, id 0013)*

*Daarbij **lag** het oogenmerk op "normaale" dingen zo als bijvoorbeeld en fiets of brood. (LCN-D, id0009)*

D-S learners: error analysis

- Posture verb confusion (11,7%)

Er moeten ook internationale maatregelen genomen worden. Internationale problemen creëren ook kerncentra die juist op of dichtbij de grens staan.(LCN-D, id0110)

Nog enkele eeuwen geleden heeft iedere cultur zijn eigen waarheden kunnen ontwikkelen, zonder een precies besef te hebben, van de ver weg zittende culturen, (LCN-D, id0134)

D-S learners: error analysis

- Posture verb panic (23,5%)

Maar wij moeten zelfs voor muziekinstallatie en dj zorgen en het hotel zit gesloten tijdens de maanden mei en juni. (LCN-D, id0079)

Zo werd in Roemenië een soortgelijke onderzoek gedaan, waaruit bleek dat de piek bij sociaal belangrijke gebeurtenissen hoog stond (LCN-D, id0030)

Conclusions

- Use of *staan*, *liggen* and *zitten* by German-speaking learners of Dutch is characterized by:
 - Underuse
 - More in postural and locational contexts
 - Less in metaphorical contexts
 - Errors
 - Fewer errors
 - Lexical confusion
- Intermediate position of the German-speaking learners

Conclusions: underuse?

- Relativization of Talmy's categorization
- Kutscher & Schultze-Berndt (2007)
 - German posture verbs in competition with the copula *sein* or *sich befinden* (more formal);
 - but preference for posture verbs.

Conclusions: underuse?

- Ameka & Levinson (2007)

Dutch & German = typologically different languages

- Dutch= type IIa language with small contrastive set of locative verbs (3-7 verbs);
- German= type III language with large set of dispositional verbs (9-100);
- Obligatory use of posture verb in Dutch, not in German;
- Competition of posture verb with the copula *sein* in German, not in Dutch;

Conclusions: underuse?

- Our view:
 - Use of copula *sein* instead of posture verb:
mainly in *where*-questions, e.g. *Wo ist mein Buch?*,
not so often in assertive/negative sentences
 - Another alternative in German, not considered by Ameka/Levinson: « *Es gibt* », e.g.
Eine Fliege sitzt auf dem Kuchen/
Es gibt eine Fliege auf dem Kuchen.

General conclusions and perspectives

- **Refine Talmy's categorization** and see both Germanic languages German and Dutch on a continuum for the expression of location:
 - Dutch: only posture verbs;
 - German: *sein/sich befinden* or posture verbs;
 - For German: importance of the sentence type (question/assertive/negative).

- **Pedagogical implications:**

- not assume that German speakers have no problems when learning Dutch;
- language-awareness exercises about underuse;
- deal with metaphorical uses

→ presentation at the GCLA conference (7-9.10):

“Conceptual metaphors for the efficient teaching of Dutch and German posture verbs to French learners”



Thank you !

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