

The current study has presented an analysis of the use of tenses in L1 and L2 English narratives, focusing on the similarities and differences among them and the possible transfer of Spanish into English in the L2 stories.

The results of the study provide evidence that L1 and L2 speakers of English choose different tenses when recounting a story in the past, being the past continuous and simple present used more by the L2 speakers and the past perfect and passive voice used more often by the native speakers.

Regarding the issue of transfer, we have to point out that it is evident that more proficiency involves less transfer, since the advanced L2 participants produced almost 100% of native-like forms. Conversely, less proficiency involves more transfer, as can be seen in the lower number of native-like forms in the intermediate L2 participants.

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Works Cited List

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