DES FOIS ÇA DIT DES MOTS EN ANGLAIS ET EN FRANÇAIS MÊLÉS:
ON THE VARIABLE MORPHOSYNTACTIC INTEGRATION OF ENGLISH-ORIGIN LEXICAL VERBS IN LOUISIANA FRENCH

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This dissertation examines the morphosyntactic treatment of English-Origin (EO) lexical verbs (e.g. drive, ride) in Louisiana French (LouFr). Specifically, it seeks to better understand the ways in which native speakers incorporate such verbs into their LouFr discourse. Although any given corpus of LouFr will reveal a variety of lexical insertion strategies, some have claimed that the most frequent strategy involves the insertion of morphologically bare EO verbs (=Bare Forms), with other strategies (e.g. auxiliated constructions, complete morphological integration) used only exceptionally.

Despite the attention this topic has received by LouFr scholars (see Dubois, Noetzel & Salmon 2006; Dubois & Sankoff 1997; Picone 1994, 1997; Rottet 2017; inter alia), their conclusions are often based on the examination of tokens appearing in naturalistic data (e.g. interviews, storytelling, etc.). While these data offer critical insight, the examination of purely naturalistic data for such a phenomenon also leaves a number of crucial gaps. It is, for instance, difficult, if not impossible, to ensure that any speaker will produce a complete paradigm for a given EO verb in a single sample of free speech, even when manipulating the discussion topic.

To fill such gaps, this study examines the variable level of morphosyntactic integration of two categories of EO verbs in six verbal contexts through the implementation of a series of tasks designed to elicit different types of data, ranging from naturalistic to experimental. Ultimately, these data reveal not only that morphological integration of EO verbs into LouFr is more frequent than previous studies have claimed, but also that there are identifiable patterns for the preference of lexical insertion strategies among LouFr speakers. Specifically, the morphosyntactic treatment of such verbs into LouFr relies to some extent on a number of factors, such as listedness (i.e. appearance in a dictionary), verbal context (i.e. finite/non-finite), and individual preference.

COMMITTEE:
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