An Investigation into Interpreting Students’ Performance: A Corpus-based Assessment

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Outline

- Introduction
- Methodology
- Results
- Conclusions
- Limitation
Introduction

- Assessment of interpreting students’ performance
  - Traditional approach VS corpus-based approach
- An Error Annotated Learner Interpreting Corpus (EALIC)
- The use of EALIC in teaching and learning
Methodology

- Data
- Participants
- Procedure
- Data Analysis
Data

- Students’ consecutive interpreting work on *Old Age Problems*
  - 2008-2009 Semester A
  - 429 words; 9 paragraphs
  - 2009-2010 Semester A
  - 327 words; 8 paragraphs
Participants

- Interpreting students in a tertiary institution in Hong Kong
  - 2008-2009 Semester A
  - 18 students’ exercises
  - 2009-2010 Semester A
  - 14 students’ exercises
Procedure

- Students’ Exercises
- Building up the Corpus
  - WordSmith Tools
  - Error annotation
Data analysis

- **WordSmith 5.0**
  - Concordance
  - WordList
Results

- Error types identified
  - Missing information [O]
  - Errors of the Number [N]
  - Fillers [F]
  - Repetitions [R]
  - Self-Correction [SC]
The distribution of different error types identified

Figure 1 The proportion of missing information, errors of the number, fillers, repetitions and self-correction
Students’ Performance from the Term 200809A

- Missing Information
- Errors of the Number
- Fillers
- Repetitions
- Self-Corrections
Missing information

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Missing information</th>
<th>Freq.</th>
<th>%</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>There are <strong>doubtlessly</strong> many reasons for this decrease.</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>2.03</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The ideal <strong>ingrained in us early</strong> persists even when we can, quite literally, no longer stand on our own two feet.</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>2.03</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Slowly the edges of your sovereign island start to erode.</strong></td>
<td>12</td>
<td>1.88</td>
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<tr>
<td>In the past 20 years, the number of <strong>Americans</strong> over 65 who live with their adult children declined by half, dropping from 18% to 9%.</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>1.72</td>
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<td>Losing one’s independence is, for <strong>Americans</strong>, a shameful thing.</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>1.72</td>
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<tr>
<td>Independence is, after all, the chief and most honored virtue in this count.</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>1.56</td>
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<tr>
<td>You can’t <strong>see well enough</strong> to drive anymore, you call the pharmacy, and a computerized voice gives so many instructions about pushing phone buttons you hang up in despair.</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>1.41</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>When our aging parents’ need for help grows too obvious to ignore, we say they are beginning to “fail.”</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>1.41</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I have noticed the tone of pride and satisfaction with which middle-aged children in America announce that their 80- or 90-year-old mother “still lives in her own house,” as if voluntary isolation were the pinnacle of geriatric heroism.</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>1.25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>One might expect the older that people get – and thus the more help they need – the more likely they are to live with one of their children. <strong>Just the reverse is true.</strong></td>
<td>8</td>
<td>1.25</td>
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<tr>
<td>Independence. Autonomy. <strong>Isolation.</strong> On this unstable trinity the lives of older Americans are precariously balanced.</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>1.09</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>One might expect the older that people get – and thus the more help they need – the more likely they are to live with one of their children</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>1.09</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>On this unstable trinity</strong> the lives of older Americans are precariously balanced.</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>1.09</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
Indeed, we can stop and even reverse losses of muscular strength, balance, bone density and intellectual sharpness.

Both in our personal lives and in our public policies, we can increase peoples’ chances of delaying disease, preventing disability, keeping mental and physical vigor and making positive contributions far into old age.

These figures are not entirely bad news to many of us. Indeed, we can stop and even reverse losses of muscular strength, balance, bone density and intellectual sharpness.

And both the percentage and the absolute numbers will continue growing in the years to come, until by mid-century those past the current retirement age will nearly equal in numbers those of high school age and below.

Both researchers strongly argue that the assumption of old age as a time of sickly unproductive dependence does not and need not reflect reality for a large and growing number of people.

And both the percentage and the absolute numbers will continue growing in the years to come, until by mid-century those past the current retirement age will nearly equal in numbers those of high school age and below.

These figures are not entirely bad news to many of us. Indeed, we can stop and even reverse losses of muscular strength, balance, bone density and intellectual sharpness.

Death certainly remains inevitable.

At the turn of the 20th century, people over 65 constituted a mere 4% of the population. Indeed, we can stop and even reverse losses of muscular strength, balance, bone density and intellectual sharpness.
Summary: Most Frequently Missed Information

- **Adverb**, such as *doubtlessly, entirely, certainly, after all, indeed*.
- List of items or parallel structures
- **Culture loaded items**, such as *the pinnacle of geriatric heroism*.
- Short sentences (in the middle or end of a paragraph) or clauses
I have noticed the tone of pride and satisfaction with which middle-aged children in America announce that their 80-90-year-old mother still lives in her own house, as if voluntary isolation were the pinnacle of geriatric heroism.

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Now they account for 13 percent --- which adds up to eleven-times as many individuals as in 1900 [19,000].

Now they account for 13 percent --- which adds up to eleven-times as many individuals as in 1900 [19,000,000].

Now they account for 13 percent --- which adds up to eleven-times as many individuals as in 1900 [one-thousand-and-nine-hundred-thousand].

Now they account for 13 percent --- which adds up to eleven-times as many individuals as in 1900 [1990].

Now they account for 13 percent --- which adds up to eleven-times as many individuals as in 1900 [1990].

Now they account for 13 percent --- which adds up to eleven-times as many individuals as in 1900 [1990].

Nevertheless, a third of the over-65 [65%] population live entirely alone.

Nevertheless, a third of the over-65 [65%] population live entirely alone.

Nevertheless, a third of the over-65 [65%] population live entirely alone.

Nevertheless, a third of the over-65 [65%] population live entirely alone.

If you make it to 85 [65], the odds of your living alone jump to one-in-two.

If you make it to 85 [65], the odds of your living alone jump to one-in-two.

If you make it to 85 [65], the odds of your living alone jump to one-in-two.

If you make it to 85 [65], the odds of your living alone jump to one-in-two.

If you make it to 85, the odds of your living alone jump to one-in-two [Some].

If you make it to 85, the odds of your living alone jump to one-in-two [Some].

If you make it to 85, the odds of your living alone jump to one-in-two [Some].

If you make it to 85, the odds of your living alone jump to one-in-two [one-or-two].

If you make it to 85, the odds of your living alone jump to one-in-two [one-or-two].

If you make it to 85, the odds of your living alone jump to one-in-two [one-or-two].

If you make it to 85, the odds of your living alone jump to one-in-two [one-or-two].

If you make it to 85, the odds of your living alone jump to one-in-two [total].

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In the past 20 years, the number of Americans over 65 who live with their adult children declined by half, dropping from 18% to 9%. There are doubtlessly many reasons for this decrease, from the improved health of older Americans to the number of two or more job households. Nevertheless, a third of the over 65 population live entirely alone. One might expect the older that people get and thus the more help they need – the more likely they are to live with one of their children. Just the reverse is true. If you make it to 85, the odds of your living alone jump to one in two.
Errors of the Number

- Accompanied by missing information
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</table>
Errors of the Number

- Rendition problems resulted from listening and pronunciation problems, such as 80 vs 18; 90 vs 19
- Influence of the numbers in the previous sentences
- Accompanied by missing information
Fillers; Repetitions; Self-Correction

- Accompanied by missing information
- Coexistence of fillers and repetitions
Concordance

1 ver 65 constituted a mere percent of the population.

2 Dependence inevitably becomes an illusion. Slowly, the edges.

3 High levels of mental and physical competence, and stay actively and positive.

4 And both the percentage and the absolute numbers will continue growing in the years to come.

5 In the United States aging and aged people are becoming more prominent than ever before in its history. People over 85 now form the fastest growing sector of the entire population. At the turn of the 20th-century those past the current retirement age will nearly double. Indeed, we can increase people’s chances.

6 Successful agers remain relatively healthy, retain high levels of mental and physical competence, and stay actively and positively engaged in life.

7 Rowe and Kahn, have identified both a large number of productive-dependence does not need to reflect re.

8 Tal-and-physical-vigor, and making positive contributions far-into-old-age. Death.

9 Balance, bone-density, and intellectual sharpness.

10 Both researchers strongly argue that the assumption of old-age lies.

11 In our public policies, we can increase people’s chances.

12 In our public policies, we can increase people’s-chances.

13 In our public policies, we can increase people’s-chances.

14 In our public policies, we can increase people’s-chances.

15 In our public policies, we can increase people’s-chances.

16 With their adult children declined by half, dropping from 18% to 9%. There are people’s chances of delaying disease, preventing disability, keeping mental.

17 Making positive contributions far-into-old-age. Death.

18 Century those past the current retirement age will nearly.

19 People’s chances of delaying disease, preventing.

20 Ren declined by half, dropping from 18% to 9%. There are people.

21 The-good-news for both those nearing their grief and-most honored virtue in this country. The id.

22 Keep in touch with friends and-family, and pursue parents’ need-for-help grows too obvious to ignore, we.

23 A parents’ need-for-help grows too obvious to ignore, we.

24 T children declined by half, dropping from 18% to 9%. There are.

25 S remain relatively healthy, retain high-levels-of-men.

26 Mbers those of high-school-age and below. These figures a.

27 Rowe and Kahn, have identified both a large number of productive-dependence in life. They do productiv.

28 Y-and-positively-engaged in life. They do productiv.


30 , retain high levels of mental and physical competence, a.

31 ductive-dependence does not and need-not reflect re.

32 I have noticed the-tone-of-pride-and-satisfac.

33 Ts history. People over 85 now form the fastest growing supermarket.

34 Der Americans to the number of two or more job-households.

35 States aging and aged people are becoming more prominent than ever before in its history. People over 85 now form the fastest growing sector of the entire population. At the turn of the 20th-century those past the current retirement age will nearly double. Indeed, we can increase people’s chances.

36 Ector of the entire population, At the turn of the 20th-century those past the current retirement age will nearly double. Indeed, we can increase people’s chances.

37 Elaying disease, preventing disability, keeping mental.

38 I-have-noticed the-tone-of-pride-and-satisfac.

39 Re doubtlessly many reasons for this decrease, from th.

40 Essful agers remain relatively healthy, retain-high-levels.

41 Ss. Successful agers remain relatively healthy, retain.

42 S. Two American researchers, Rowe and Kahn, have ident.

43 In the United States aging and aged people ar.

44 Ference for supermarkets. Rely on “Meals on-Wheels.”

45 E becoming more prominent than ever-before in its hist.

46 Niors in human society is that choices made by individual.

47 Esarchers strongly argue that the assumption of old-age lies.

48 Rs-in-human society is that choices made by individual.

49 O, until by mid-century those past-the-current-retirement.

50 E that people get and thus the more help they need –

51 The-years-to-come, until-by mid-century those past the.

52 3 percent -- which adds up-to eleven-times as many in.

53 Ief-and-most honored virtue in this country. The id.

54 And the absolute numbers will continue growing in the ye.
Concordance

1 number of Americans[O] over 65[R] who live[O] with their adu
2 is true. If you make it to 85[R], the odds of your living a
3 nited States[F] aging and aged[R] people are becoming more[R
4 and a small number of factors[R] that contribute to their-s
5 ngly argue that the assumption[R] of old age as a time of
6 nd[O] aged people are becoming[R] more prominent than ever-b
7 scular strength, balance, bone[R] density, and intellectual
8 ties[SC] that they enjoy. Both[R] researchers strongly argue
9 tailly remains inevitable, but[R] a significant portion of[O
10 lly[O] remains inevitable, but[R] a significant portion of t
11 -which[O] middle-aged children[R] in America announce that[O
12 human society is that choices[R] made by individuals and so
13 red virtue[F] in this country[R]. The ideal[R], ingrained-i
14 's chances of delaying disease[R], preventing[F] disability,
15 ich adds up-to[F] eleven times[R] as many individuals as in
16 These figures are not entirely[R] bad news to many-of[O] us.
17 irement age will nearly equal[R] in numbers those of high-s
18 prominent than[F] ever-before[R] in its history. People ove
19 hed to a-surprisingly-large-effect[R]. Both in our personal live
20 f-people[O]. The good news for[R] both those nearing their g
21 reasons for this decrease, from[R] the improved health of-old
22 - or even faking – gratitude[R].
23 ve-a-surprisingly-large-effect[R]. Both in our personal live
24 I-have-noticed[R][F] the tone of pride and sa
25 the society that will have-to[R] cope with the largest numb
26 healthy, retain high-levels-off[R] mental and physical compet
27 e of high-school-age-and-below[R]. These figures are not ent
28 hief and most honored virtue[R] in this country. The ideal
29 in this country[R]. The ideal[R], ingrained-in-us-early[O],
30 c policies, we can[F] increase[R] people's chances-off[O] de
32 sively engaged[R] in[F] life[R]. They do productive work[O]
33 usly balanced. But if you live[R] long enough, independence-
34 -year-old[O] mother "still lives[R] in her own house," as-if-v
35 tion-with-which[O] middle-aged[R] children in America announce
36 ed[R] people are becoming more[R] prominent than ever before
37 that the assumption of old age as a time of sickly[O], un
38 t the assumption[R] of old age as a time of sickly, unpro
39 that the assumption of old age as a time of sickly, unpro
40 tirely alone. One might expect[R] the older that people get
41 -as-well[O]. If you ask others[R] to take you to the grocery
42 our-own-two-feet[O]." When [R] aging parents' need-for-he
43 ess[O], a third of[O] the over[R] 65 population live entirely
44 of the decline[O] many people[R] now suffer in their later
45 tituted a mere[O] 4[F] percent[R] of the population. Now the
46 1900. And both the percentage[R] and the absolute numbers w
47 1900. And both the percentage[R] and the absolute numbers w
48 uctions-about[O] pushing phone[R] buttons[O] you hang-up-in-
49 levels of mental and physical[R] competence, and stay activ
50 cator of the entire population[R], At the turn of the 20th[O
51 d stay actively and positively[R] engaged in life. They do p
52 r at least some of them prefer[R] living alone to the-change
53 ying[F] disease[O], preventing[R] disability, keeping mental
54 rsional lives and in our public[R] policies, we can increase
55 rsional lives and in our public[R] policies, we can increase
56 re doubtlessly[O] many reasons[R] for this decrease, from th
57 n[F] stop[SC] and even reverse[R] losses of muscular strength
58 p-up-with[O] the yard work, so[R] you move to a condominium-
59 r golden years and the society[R] that will have to cope wit
60 at attribute to their success[R]. Successful agers remain r
61 m do. Or at least some of them[R] prefer living alone to the
64 Isolation[F]. On this unstable[R] trinity[O] the lives of[O]
65 in the years to come, until-by[R] mid-century those past-the
66 s. If your daughter volunteers[R] to clean your house, you c
67 island-start-to-erode[O]. You[R] can no longer keep up-with
68 teers to clean your house, you[R] can't point out to her, th
69 ] your dinner" and you have-to[R] accept unfamiliar dishes.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>N</th>
<th>Concordance</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>now they account for 13-percent[SC] --- which adds up to elev</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>as many individuals as in 1900[SC]. And both the percentage</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>t the turn of the 20th-century[SC], people over 65 constitut</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>t the turn of the 20th-century[SC], people over 65 constitut</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>ursue interests and activities[SC] that they enjoy. Both[R]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>“Meals on-Wheels-to[O] deliver[SC] your dinner” and you-have</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>ickly, unproductive dependence[SC] does not and need-not[O]</td>
</tr>
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<td>8</td>
<td>ose nearing their golden-years[SC] and the society that will</td>
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<td>9</td>
<td>mbers those of high-school-age[SC] and-below[O]. These figur</td>
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<td>10</td>
<td>e-density[O], and intellectual[SC] sharpness[O].</td>
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<td>11</td>
<td>ow suffer in-their-later-years[SC] does not. Indeed[O], we c</td>
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<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>dane-chores-of-living[O] means[SC] surrendering control as w</td>
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<td>13</td>
<td>t[F] the assumption of old-age[SC] as a time of sickly, unpr</td>
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<td>14</td>
<td>nd-growing-number-of[O] people[SC]. The good news for both t</td>
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<td>15</td>
<td>h a large number of productive[SC] and high-functioning ager</td>
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<tr>
<td>16</td>
<td>in-life[O]. They do productive[SC] work, keep in touch with</td>
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<tr>
<td>17</td>
<td>fe[R]. They do productive-work[SC], keep in touch with frien</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18</td>
<td>es not. Indeed[O], we can stop[SC] and even-reverse[O] losse</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19</td>
<td>not. Indeed[O], we can[F] stop[SC] and even reverse[R] losse</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20</td>
<td>ter years does not. Indeed, we[SC] can stop and even reverse</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>21</td>
<td>o longer keep up with the yard[SC] work, so you move to a co</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Conclusion

- Lots of missing information
  - Adverb
  - List of items or parallel structures
  - Culture loaded items
  - Short sentences (in the middle or end of a paragraph) or clauses

- Fluency issues
  - Fillers
  - Repetition
  - Self-correction

- More training on numbers and cultural terms
Limitation

- Time consuming
  Transcription
  Tagging

- Omitting fillers, repetitions, self-corrections in some students’ transcription of the target text
thank you