

Existing literature on Potawatomi conversational constructions has only looked at the differences between narrative and so-called everyday discourse, which do not come from naturalistic Potawatomi conversation data, but rather from limited elicited material and short personal narratives (Buszard 2003, Lockwood 2017, Thunder & Thunder 2018, Thunder 2023). Due to the difficulties eliciting L1 speech data today, this paper looks to begin documenting the grammar of L2 speakers, with special attention paid to biclausal constructions in everyday constructions and naturalistic conversation. I will look at biclausal sentences as spoken and judged by L2 speakers as a starting point. Namely, I use Long Distance Agreement as a test for the distance at which agreement occurs for these speakers (Lochbihler and Mathieu 2016, Hamilton & Fry 2016).

The analysis of this paper is twofold: I first provide a brief description of LDA in L1 texts to establish a baseline syntax and introduce the discourse function of Potawatomi LDA. Second, I evaluate LDA in order to investigate biclausal sentences and cross clausal agreement for L2 speakers. Since LDA is not in the native language of the L2 Potawatomi speakers, use and judgment of Potawatomi LDA is a good way to investigate the syntax that L2 speakers employ. Though the free LDA that L2 speakers understand is expanding, conversation data shows that discursive uses are contracting.

Though LDA is accessible in many grammatical forms, the main goal of this paper is to describe and analyze L2 use of LDA, either in conversational, narrative, or elicited sentence data. In doing this, I propose that LDA in L2 speech is showing a shift in its discourse functions, particularly that of topicality. This is particularly interesting at this juncture as conversation data has not been well documented, and this insight will be helpful for later descriptive work.

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