

## **L2ERS' SHARED REPRESENTATION OF SYNTAX AND ITS INTERACTION WITH INPUT**

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*It is generally observed that second language learners (hereafter L2ers) demonstrate different levels of competence of syntax in comprehension and production when processing their second languages. Hence it is unclear whether L2ers can employ a shared representation of syntax in comprehension and production for L2 processing and how such a representation interacts with input to develop their ultimate achievement in L2 acquisition. This study provides evidence to showcase that Mandarin L2ers can employ a shared representation of syntax in their L2 processing using structural priming with the Mandarin SVO-ba alternation in comprehension and production. When frequency of the constructions increases in input, the boosted frequency input facilitates and strengthens the representation of the less frequent ba-construction but not the SVO construction in language processing. The results support not only the view that frequency plays a major role in L2 acquisition but the structural priming as learning account in second language acquisition.*