The effects of L2 error correction with corpus use in on-demand English writing classes

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Since the spread of the COVID-19 has forced teachers to teach remotely, various attempts have been made to obtain an educational effect similar to that is obtained in face-to-face classes. Regarding data-driven learning, corpus use in L2 learning in off-campus settings has not been studied enough, while the strengths of that in on-campus settings have been stated. Thus, this study explored the effects of L2 error correction with learners' indirect corpus use in on-demand English writing classes. The author focused on article- and preposition-omission errors and compared the results with those of the author's previous research, which investigated the effects of correcting these errors with learners' actual direct corpus use in an on-campus setting. The participants were thirteen Japanese university EFL students. They wrote essays in English before and after ten error correction sessions, in which the author highlighted all article- and preposition-omission errors in their essays and provided them with concordance feedback by using the corpus of contemporary American English. The concordance lines were related to the students' errors and the students were told to consult them for error correction. There was no learners' direct corpus access. The author examined whether fewer article- and preposition-omission errors were found in the post-session essays than in the pre-session ones. The results show that error correction with indirect corpus use contributed to more accurate correction of article-omission errors, while it did not promote more accurate correction of preposition-omission errors. Considering that the author's previous research shows that error correction with learners' direct corpus use contributed to more accurate correction of both article- and preposition omission errors, the findings suggest that learners' indirect corpus use is less effective in L2 error correction than learners' direct corpus use. With indirect corpus use, exposure to fewer concordance lines would unfavourably affect correction of preposition-omission errors.