

AI Authenticity Project: Exploring What Makes L2 Writing Human-Like

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Background

RISE OF GENAI



- Changes in the nature of (L2) writing > constant **interaction between human writer and machine**
- **Boundary** between human L2 writing and machine-generated writing

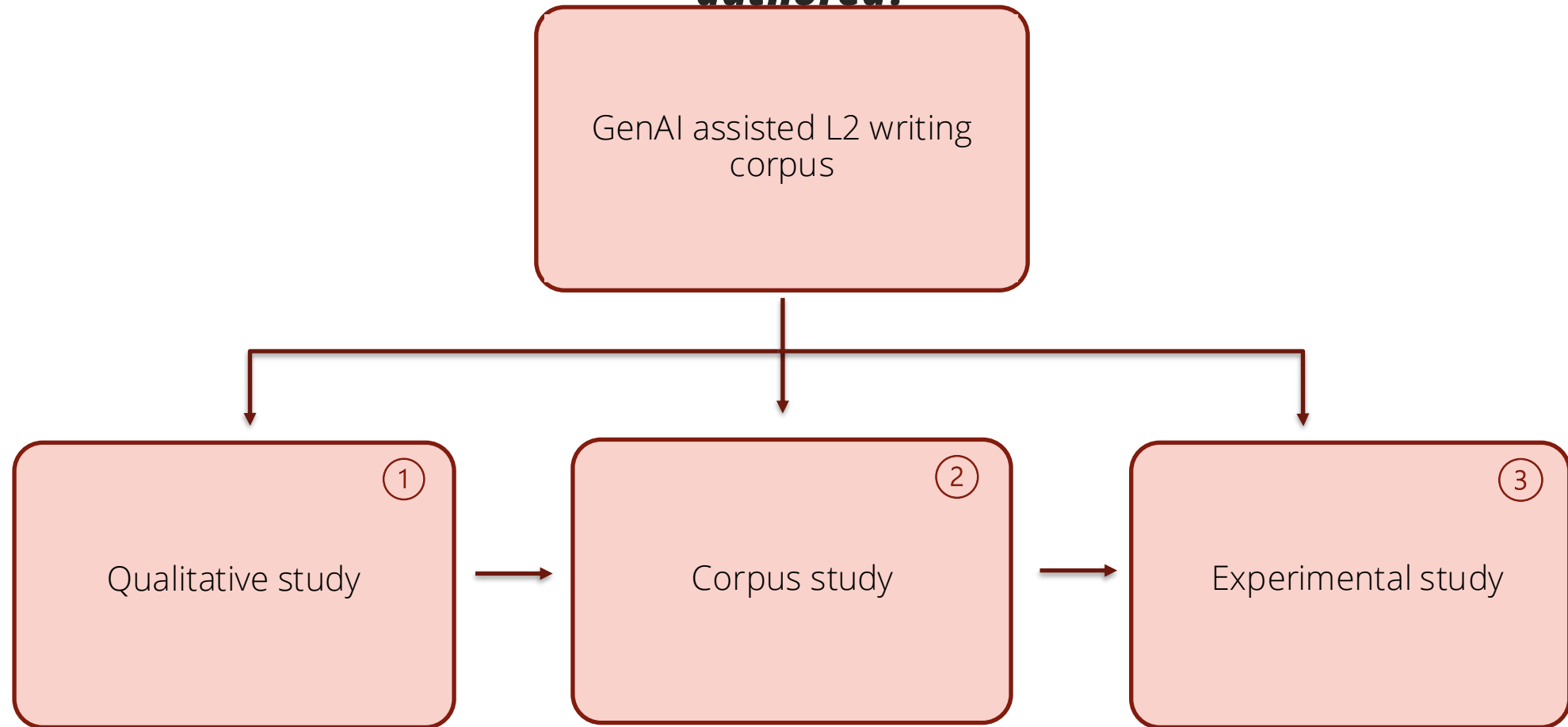
AUTHENTICITY



- Authenticity in the language classroom, authenticity of textbook materials (e.g., Macdonald et al., 2006; Gilmore, 2007)
- Authenticity in L2 writing: **combination of individual authorship and social validation** (Van Compernelle & McGrigor, 2016)

Project Overview

Which are the defining features of L2 writing that lead readers to perceive it as human-authored?



Corpus Collection Overview

RATIONALE



- Joint collaboration Antwerp University – Radboud University
- **New learner corpus** of GenAI-assisted and unaided L2 writing
- **No resources** allowing for comparisons between GenAI-Assisted and unaided L2 writing **under controlled conditions**

STUDY DESIGN



- Design: mixed within- and between- subject research
- Conditions: **GenAI-assisted vs. unaided**
- Text types: **persuasive and narrative essays**
- Target population: 1-st year Bachelor's students; Dutch L1, English L2 students in **EMI contexts**

DATA



- L2 **text products**
- L2 **process data**: Inputlog (Leijten & Van Waes, 2013) and OBS studio recordings
- LexTALE vocabulary test (Lemhöfer & Broersma, 2012)
- Demographic information
- GenAI questionnaire

Study 1 Overview

QUALITATIVE

Rethinking authenticity in L2 writing: Educators' perceptions of human and AI-Assisted texts

RQs



- **RQ1.** Which features do educators associate with human L2 and AI-assisted texts?
- **RQ2.** How do educators conceptualize authenticity in L2 writing in the genAI age?

STUDY DESIGN



- Portfolio of GenAI-assisted and unaided English L2 texts
- 7 educators
- **Interviews and focus group discussion**
- QCA and TA

MAIN FINDINGS



- **Complexity features, stance markers**
- **Authenticity cannot be reduced to a binary distinction**
- Difficulties in interpreting perceptions in linguistic terms
- Judgements reflecting underlying biases

Study 2 Overview

CORPUS STUDY (TENTATIVE METHODOLOGY)

Reconstructing authenticity in L2 Writing: A multidimensional and process-based approach

RATIONALE



- Authenticity cannot be reduced to a binary distinction
- **Compare L2 product and process data through multidimensional lenses** to identify which writing dimensions can be attributed to a L2 writer

NOVELTY



- So far, no studies have focused on **GenAI-assisted texts**
- So far, **process data** have not YET been included in the MDA analysis
- New GenAI-assisted corpus

METHODOLOGY



- Biber's (1988) **Multidimensional Analysis (MDA)** framework
- Automatic text annotation through multidimensional analysis tagger (Nini, 2019)
- GenAI measure through process data

Study 2 Overview

CORPUS STUDY (DATA)

SAMPLE



- **Classroom-based setting:** EP2 course
- (ideally) 120 students
- Mostly Dutch L1, English L2

PART 1



- Qualtrics survey with ChatGPT interface
- **1 writing task either in the GenAI-assisted or unaided condition > randomization**
- LexTALE vocabulary test (Lemhöfer & Broersma, 2012)
- GenAI questionnaire
- Process data

PART 2



- 1 week later
- **1 writing task in the opposite writing condition**
- Demographic questions
- Process data

References

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Thank you