



# **ERROR ANALYSIS IN A WRITTEN LEARNER CORPUS FROM SPANISH SPEAKERS EFL LEARNERS. A CORPUS BASED STUDY**

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**UCREL Session**

**Lancaster University**

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# Work plan

- 1. Problem summary, hypothesis, error definition.
- 2. Compilation of the learner corpus
- 3. Corpus' features.
- 4. Preliminary results from pilot test including all data.
- 5. Types of errors by category.
- 6. Alignment of texts by type of error.
- 7. Frequency of errors by categories.
- 8. Types of errors compared by levels.
- 9. Absolute and relative frequency of errors.
- 10. CLEC Colombian Learner English Corpus.

# Problem summary

## Problem:

- ▶ The recurrent errors in the written production of students of English as a foreign language (EFL) in Universidad del Norte from Barranquilla, Colombia
- ▶ Hypothesis to test: the input hypothesis (Krashen, 1982). Language is acquired by receiving “comprehensible input” (CI) slightly above the current level of competence...grammar is automatically acquired if there is enough CI
- ▶ How proficiency changes from level to level
- ▶ **Error**, defined by James (1998) as “...an instance of language that is unintentionally deviant and is not self-corrigible by its author.” (P. 78).

# Compilation of the learner corpus I

## Third semester:

- Arrangement of student's work in different files. In total 518 students authorized the use of their data for research purposes.
- Louvain university was contacted. We bought an error tagger for EFL errors.

## Fourth semester:

- **Handwritten** assignments were **transcribed** into digital files, saved as TXT files and were assigned special codes to make them traceable.
- Manual error tagging starts.



## Compilation of the learner corpus II

- ▶ The files were error tagged and put together by levels.
- ▶ Papers were aligned according to the type of error in WordSmith (WS).
- ▶ The first findings were organized in Excel sheets and errors were filtered according to each category

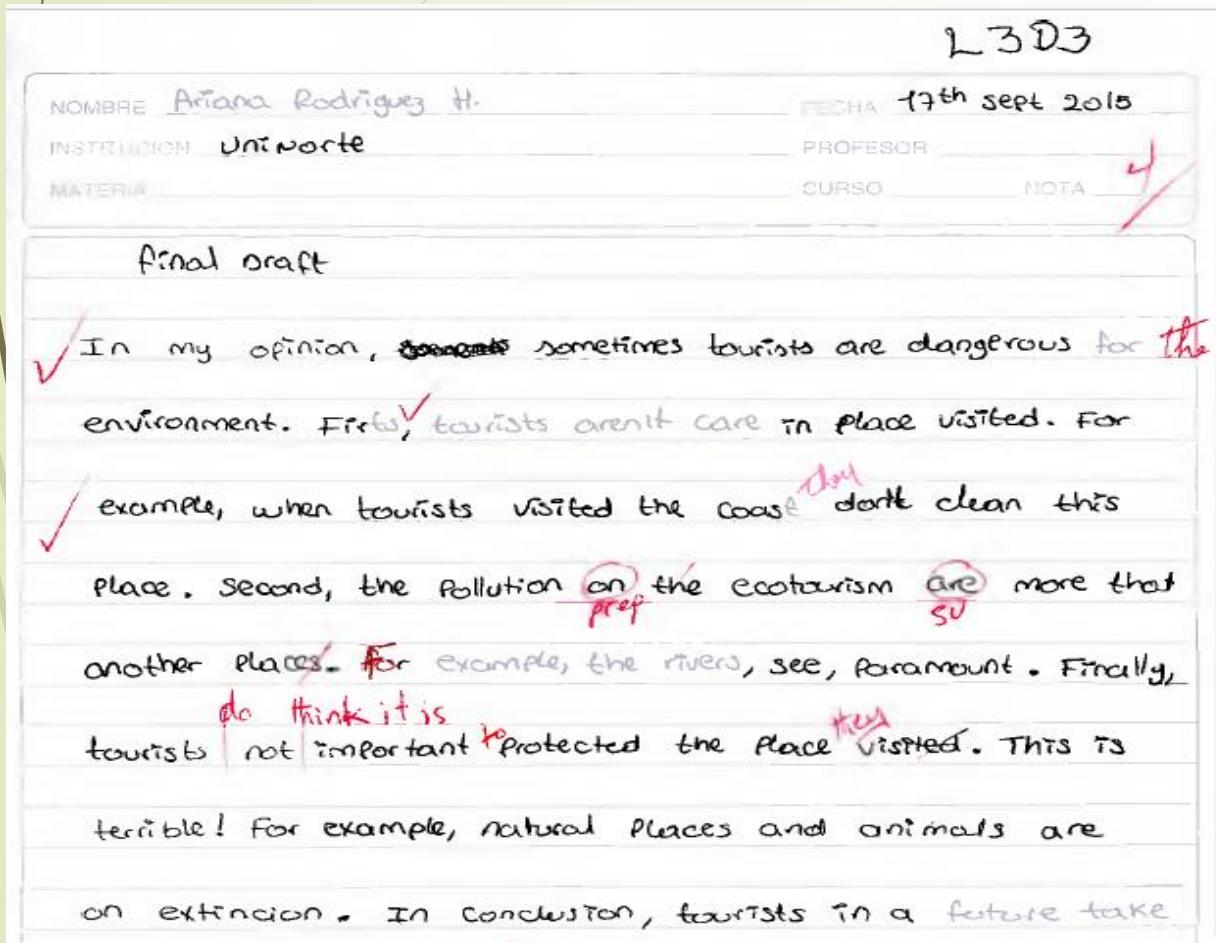


## Compilation of the learner corpus III

- ▶ External review started to check consistency, and correct tagging. (EFL expert)
- ▶ First pilot findings were presented in the First Corpus and Computational Linguistics International Congress.

(Caro y Cuervo Institute. Bogotá,  
Colombia)

# Example from a written file into digital file



Ana Rodriguez H. – L3D3

## Final Work:

In my opinion, sometimes tourists are dangerous for environment. First, tourists aren't care in place visited. For example, when tourists visited the coast don't clean this place. Second, the pollution on the ecotourism are more than another places. For example, the rivers, see, paramount. Finally, tourists not important protected the place visited. This is terrible! For example, natural places and animals are on extincion. In conclusion, tourists in a future take care more on ecotourism. Is very important save the natural places because are unique.

# Errors by categories (Louvain University)

- ▶ **Formal errors F**
- ▶ **Grammatical errors, i.e. errors that break general rules of English grammar G**
- ▶ **Lexico-grammar errors, i.e. errors where the morpho-syntactic properties of a word have been violated X (XADJ, XVPR...)**
- ▶ **Lexical errors, i.e. errors involving the semantic properties of single words and phrases LS**
- ▶ **Word Redundant, Word Missing and Word Order errors WO, WR**
- ▶ **Punctuation errors QM, QR**
- ▶ **Style errors SI, SU**
- ▶ **Infelicities Z**



# Examples of some errors tagged

- ▶ **37** another reason is that they (Z) wanna \$ want to\$ show a
- ▶ **113** could be a good way to try (XVPR) 0 \$to\$ survive with canc
- ▶ **484** But in contrast, there are too (WRS) too\$0\$ (XNUC) much  
\$many\$ people
- ▶ **6536** tor examines our body, he can (GWC) diagnostic \$diagnose\$  
us
- ▶ **8431** are not honest. The product (GVAUX) 0 \$does\$ not see
- ▶ **11041** ... emotions. For example, when (GA) the \$0\$ people see  
commercials
- ▶ **13426** so for example Shakira is a Colombian (FS) celebritie  
\$celebrity\$

# Digital file becomes TXT file and is error tagged

18/ sept/ 2015

I think that the ecotourism isn't good for ou planet for differents reasons. The first reason is that this practice produce contamination because the people don't take care and they don't clean the place. For example, when I went to the Tayrona Park and I saw this place isn't clean because they throught waste in all ecosystem. The second reason is that the ecotourism affect to animal's home because this place is habitted for many people and it does that the animals go out. Finally the ecotourism changes the ecosystem and it affect the climate because it can change the temperature. In conclusion the ecotourism is evil and dangerous for the planet because the people isn't friendly with the nature. Is a problem that affect to all world. Is necessary thinking a solution for this problem right now.

I think that (GA) the \$0\$ ecotourism isn't good for (FS) ou \$our\$ planet for (GADJN) differents\$different\$ reasons. The first reason is that this practice (GVN) produce \$produces\$ contamination because (GA) the \$0\$ people don't take care and they don't clean the place. For example, when I went to the Tayrona Park and I saw this place isn't clean because they (LS) throught \$throw\$ waste in all (GA) 0 \$the\$ (FS) ecosystem\$ecosystem\$. The second reason is that (GA) the \$0\$ ecotourism (GVN) affect \$affects\$ (LP) to animal's home \$animal's environment\$ because (LP) this place is (FS) habitted \$inhabited\$ (LS) for\$by\$ many people (LP) and it does that the\$so\$ animals (LP)go out \$leave\$ \$when people arrive, they displace animals\$. Finally (QM)0 \$\$ (GA)the \$0\$ ecotourism changes the ecosystem and it (GVN) affect \$affects\$ the climate because it can change the temperature. In conclusion (GA) the \$0\$ ecotourism is evil and dangerous for the planet because (GA) the\$0\$ people (GVN) isn't \$aren't\$ friendly with (GA) the \$0\$ nature. (GPP) 0 \$It\$ Is a problem that (GVN) affect \$affects\$ (WRS) to \$0\$ all world. (GPP) 0 \$it\$ (FS) Is \$is\$ necessary (GWC) thinking \$to think\$ (WM) 0 \$about\$ a solution for this problem right now.



## Corpus' features

- ▶ Total of words: 151.708
- ▶ Range of words per paper 50 – 1.300
- ▶ Median of words per paper: 292
- ▶ Vocabulary richness (density): 8.112 (use of content words)
- ▶ Number of sentences in all corpus: 5.947

# Alignment of texts by type of error

File	Edit	View	Compute	Settings	Windows	Help	Set	Tag	V
Concordance									

\$not having done\$ more things in **your** (GWC) live \$life\$. Your family will  
sports are determined by the way **you** (GWC) practiced \$practice\$ them  
**is time to start to change your life if you** (GWC) **considered \$consider\$ that**  
sports, we can implicate this **with** (GWC) a dead \$death\$, but we need  
could affect people (GWC)whom **\$who\$** (GWC) life \$live\$ in those ways.  
think that (GA) the \$0\$ one way **to** (GWC) death \$die\$ (GWC) easy  
of living can (GVN) causes \$cause\$ **the** (GWC) feel \$feeling\$ that everything  
THE (GWC) SILENCE \$silent\$ RISKS OF  
organs. The sedentary life style is **the** (GWC) originating \$origin\$ of  
way, the sedentary life can produce **the** (GWC) die \$death\$ too if we (Z) can't  
sedentary life are risky, but both in **the** (GWC) reality \$real\$ life are  
Scarry on\$ to the same destiny. **The** (GWC) different \$difference\$ is that in  
there are some people whom think **that** (GWC) sedentary \$sedentarism\$ is a  
and aggressive political leader **doesn't** (GWC) intervened \$intervene\$ and  
is the sedentary life (WM) \$style\$. (GWC) Have \$Shaving\$ a (GWC) relax  
face risks even if they live a **sedentary** (GWC) live \$life\$, but these risks can  
that it (GVN) require \$requires\$. (GWC) too \$to\$ have (LSF) distinct  
people could play extreme sports **or** (GWC) life \$live\$ (LP) as sedentary  
like eating junk food all the time, **or** (GWC) stay \$staying\$ on TV for hours  
lifestyle can also have a lot of risks **like**, (GWC) loose \$loosing\$ all the energy  
Sto\$ find a form to keep us and our **kids** (GWC) save \$safe\$. Today the kids  
(GVN) want \$wants\$ (LS) 0 \$to\$ **keep** (GWC) save \$safe\$ (LP) want keep  
exists \$exist\$ a lot of ways to **keep** (GWC) save \$safe\$ and reduce this  
state the only action that you do **is** (GWC) eat \$eating\$ bad food), being  
the HPV effects in the health, as **in** (GWC) deficit \$deficient\$ information

# First pilot testing analysis: Total of errors tagged: 14.531

Documento1 - Word

INICIO REFERENCIAS CORRESPONDENCIA REVISAR VISTA FORMATO

Normal Sin espacio Título 1 Título 2 Puesto Subtítulo Énfasis sutil

case sensitive

N	Concordance	Set	Tag	Word #	Sen	Sen	Par	Par	head	head	Sec	Sec	File	%
32	this manner (QM) 0 \$ \$ (GPU) 0 \$they (Z) will not \$won't be involved in danger	Z		562	225%	034%		034%	Steve23Second				84%	
33	\$flashfloods some people lose their \$belongings. (GNM)	Z		742	1213%	079%		079%	secondCorrection				80%	
34	fatal. On the other hand, (GA) the \$0\$ \$90 \$mety's percent of those with	Z		315	1329%	047%		047%	Steve23Second				45%	
35	(GNM) flood \$floods Barranquilla is the (Z) 4th \$borth's business city in the	Z		9	027%	0 1%		0 1%	secondCorrection				1%	
36	(Z) The risks of living outside of Colombia	Z		1	0 6%	0 0%		0 0%	secondCorrection				0%	
37	method \$methodology\$ to attend all kind	JPR		236	952%	051%		051%	ave4SecondC.tx				52%	
38	flame \$blaze\$. Finally, tourists don't	JPR		200	836%	031%		031%	nd Smart Grupo				81%	
39	people do not change, and they only	JPR		37	154%	016%		016%	DF 47 Toti level				17%	
40	(GWC) depends \$depends	JPR		24	075%	012%		012%	3Vides22PDF4				13%	
41	a danger to the environment. It is	JPR		15	127%	0 8%		0 8%	MARILLOPDF2				9%	
42	bad or happy. (FS) according \$accordings	JPR		102	359%	050%		050%	ndo Rojas 5613				62%	
43	\$usually\$ appears (WRM) most on \$0\$	JPR		222	615%	034%		034%	ave6SecondC.tx				32%	
44	a conviction (GVN) depend \$depends	JPR		46	147%	0 8%		0 8%	Steve13Second				8%	
45	0 \$ome another\$. (GPP) \$they\$ do	JPR		151	355%	040%		040%	DF 46 Toti level				38%	
46	ago people (GVT) search \$searches	JPR		142	518%	070%		070%	R 4 NRC 5642				70%	
47	(QMV) \$5 the inhabitants are affected	JPR		434	150%	054%		054%	secondCorrection				65%	
48	the deaths and accidents recklessly due	JPR		315	840%	048%		048%	ave6SecondC.tx				45%	
49	. (GPP) 0 \$he\$ (GVAUX) don't \$doesn't	JPR		57	238%	015%		015%	DF 46 Toti level				15%	
50	in the earth \$on\$ the ground\$ and look	JPR		251	1250%	032%		032%	34996-1PDF11				92%	
51	. (GA) The \$0\$ young (WM) \$people\$ don	JPR		66	344%	032%		032%	R 4P44 PDF 39				32%	
52	. Your mother or your father will not	JPR		91	456%	051%		051%	nd Smart Grupo				51%	
53	inside your own community regardless	JPR		314	1037%	058%		058%	3 econdchecked				59%	
54	(QC) . \$ \$ we (GWC) listening \$listen\$ to this \$that\$ (FS) \$people\$ \$people\$ don	JPR		610	1037%	055%		055%	secondCorrection				66%	
55	live in \$the\$ real life where no one	JPR		213	875%	031%		031%	PDF 47 VERDE				81%	
56	psychology\$ the institutions depend	JPR		204	733%	073%		073%	DF 81 BLANCO				70%	
57	help people with this disease; it depends	JPR		326	757%	053%		053%	Steve13Second				54%	
58	any \$some\$ people might not agree	JPR		71	256%	0 7%		0 7%	Steve14Second				7%	
59	criminals and make people abstain (XPR) \$from\$ committing crimes.	JPR		622	2538%	052%		052%	level 8-2 Second				53%	
60		JPR		122	436%	026%		026%	secondCorrection				25%	

concordance collocates plot patterns clusters filenames follow up source text notes

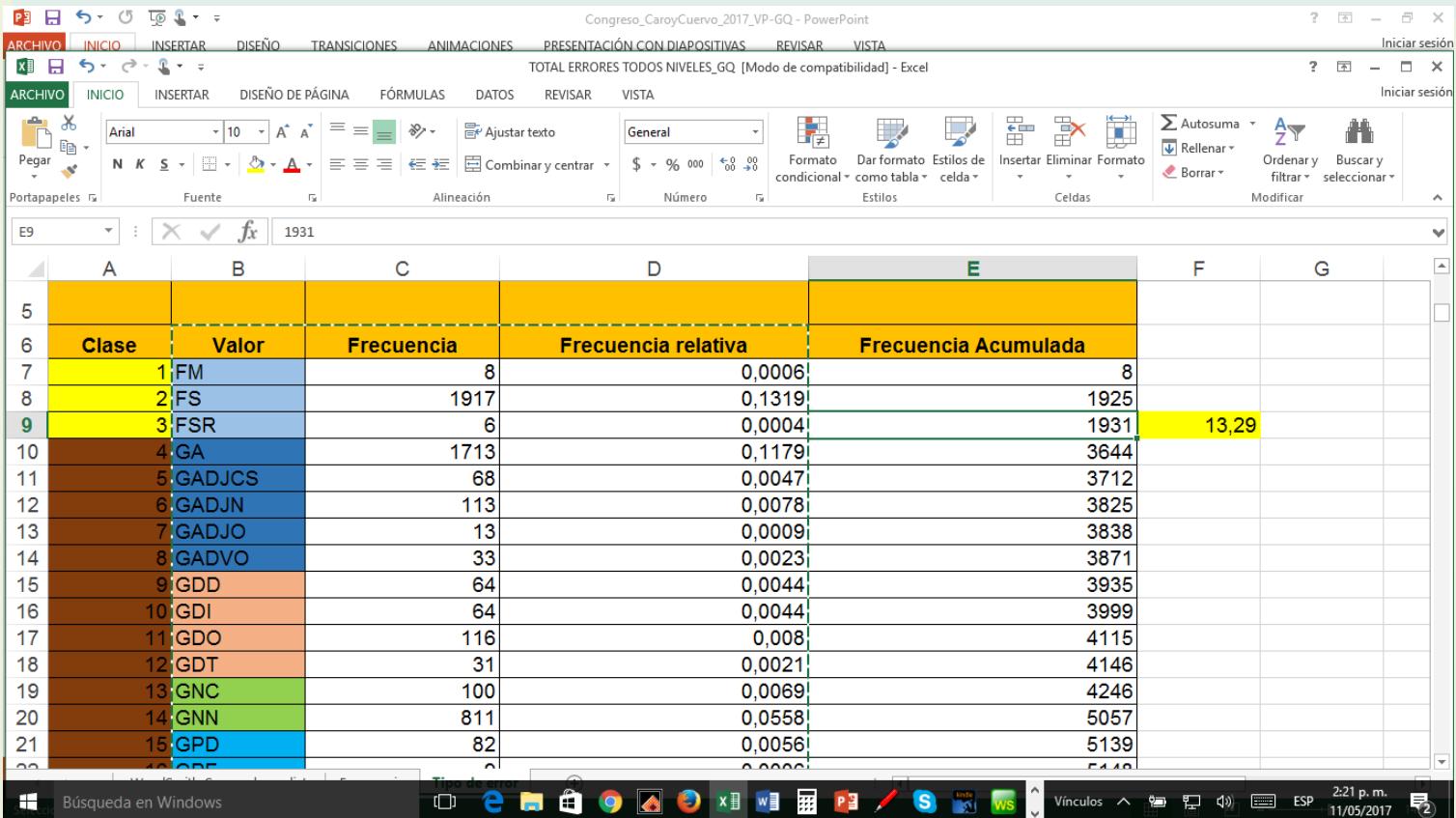
14,531 Set

Búsqueda en Windows

PÁGINA 1 DE 1 0 PALABRAS ESPAÑOL (COLOMBIA)

180% 1:25 p. m. 11/05/2017

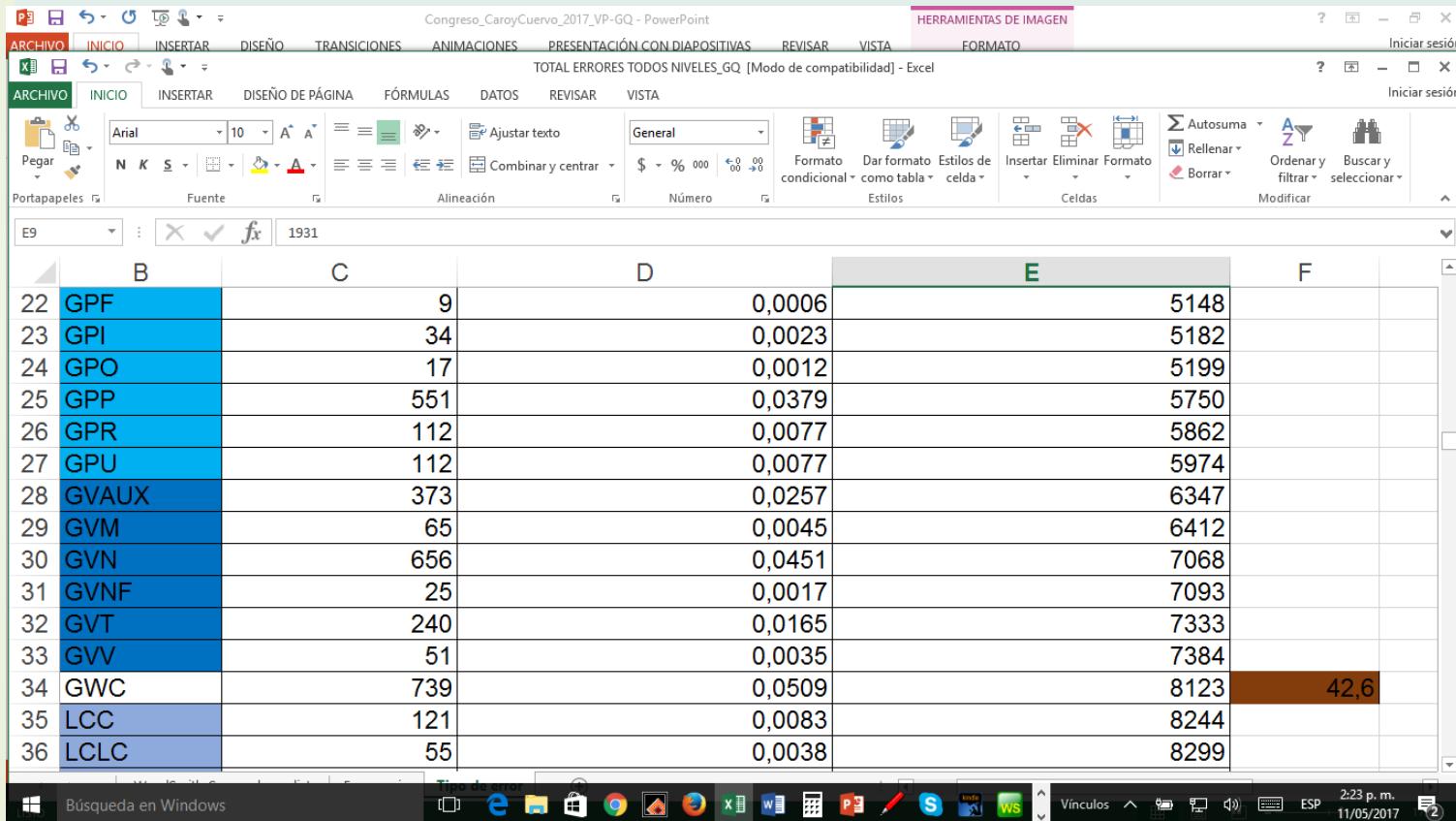
# Types of errors by categories I



The screenshot shows a Microsoft Excel spreadsheet titled "TOTAL ERRORES TODOS NIVELES\_GQ [Modo de compatibilidad] - Excel". The table has columns labeled "Clase", "Valor", "Frecuencia", "Frecuencia relativa", and "Frecuencia Acumulada". The data is as follows:

A	B	C	D	E	F	G
5	Clase	Valor	Frecuencia	Frecuencia relativa	Frecuencia Acumulada	
7	1	FM	8	0,0006	8	
8	2	FS	1917	0,1319	1925	
9	3	FSR	6	0,0004	1931	13,29
10	4	GA	1713	0,1179	3644	
11	5	GADJCS	68	0,0047	3712	
12	6	GADJN	113	0,0078	3825	
13	7	GADJO	13	0,0009	3838	
14	8	GADVO	33	0,0023	3871	
15	9	GDD	64	0,0044	3935	
16	10	GDI	64	0,0044	3999	
17	11	GDO	116	0,008	4115	
18	12	GDT	31	0,0021	4146	
19	13	GNC	100	0,0069	4246	
20	14	GNN	811	0,0558	5057	
21	15	GPD	82	0,0056	5139	
						5140

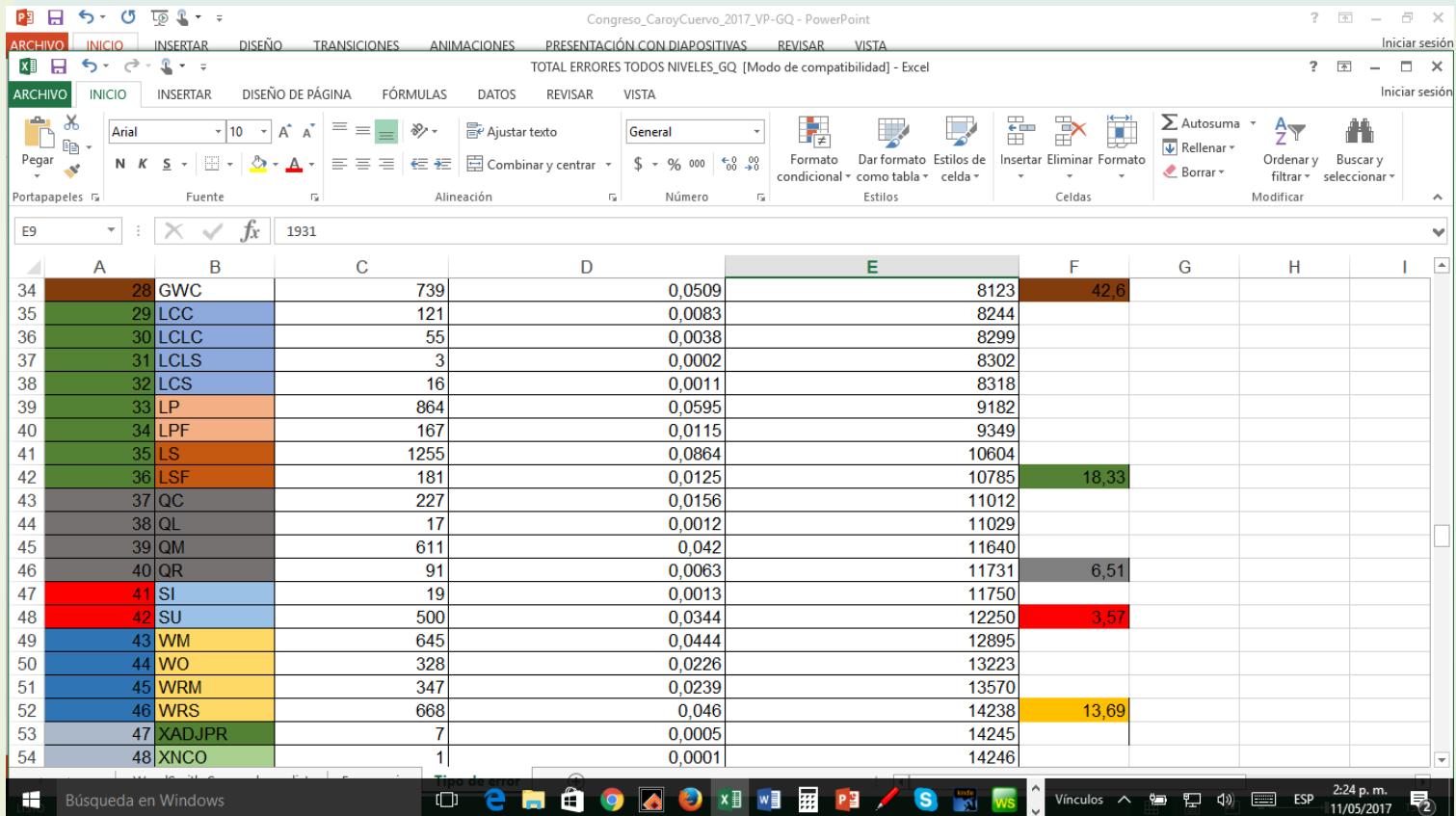
# Types of errors by categories II



The screenshot shows a Microsoft Excel spreadsheet titled "TOTAL ERRORES TODOS NIVELES\_GQ [Modo de compatibilidad] - Excel". The table contains 15 rows of data, each representing a different error category. The columns are labeled B, C, D, E, and F. The data is as follows:

	B	C	D	E	F
22	GPF	9	0,0006	5148	
23	GPI	34	0,0023	5182	
24	GPO	17	0,0012	5199	
25	GPP	551	0,0379	5750	
26	GPR	112	0,0077	5862	
27	GPU	112	0,0077	5974	
28	GVAUX	373	0,0257	6347	
29	GVM	65	0,0045	6412	
30	GVN	656	0,0451	7068	
31	GVNF	25	0,0017	7093	
32	GVT	240	0,0165	7333	
33	GVV	51	0,0035	7384	
34	GWC	739	0,0509	8123	42,6
35	LCC	121	0,0083	8244	
36	LCLC	55	0,0038	8299	

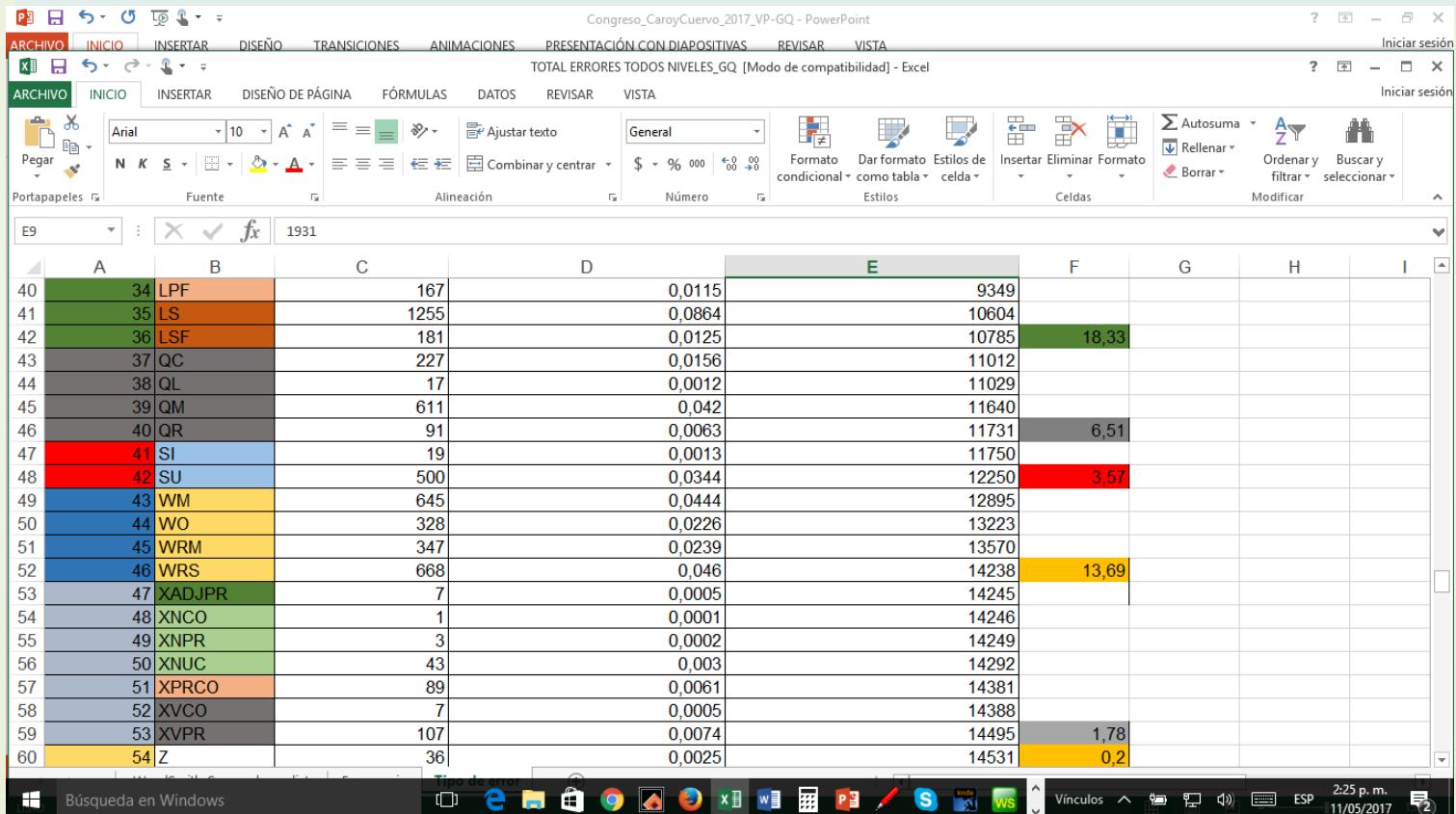
# Types of errors by categories III



The screenshot shows a Microsoft Excel spreadsheet titled "TOTAL ERRORES TODOS NIVELES\_GQ [Modo de compatibilidad] - Excel". The table has columns A through I. Column A contains row numbers from 34 to 54. Column B contains codes like GWC, LCC, LCLC, LCLS, LCS, LP, LPF, LS, LSF, QC, QL, QM, QR, SI, SU, WM, WO, WRM, WRS, XADJPR, and XNCO. Column C contains numerical values. Column D contains values like 0,0509, 0,0083, 0,0038, etc. Column E contains values like 8123, 8244, 8299, 8302, etc. Column F contains values like 42,6, 18,33, 6,51, 3,57, etc. The background of the cells varies in color, including red, green, blue, orange, and grey.

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I
34	28 GWC	739	0,0509	8123	42,6			
35	29 LCC	121	0,0083	8244				
36	30 LCLC	55	0,0038	8299				
37	31 LCLS	3	0,0002	8302				
38	32 LCS	16	0,0011	8318				
39	33 LP	864	0,0595	9182				
40	34 LPF	167	0,0115	9349				
41	35 LS	1255	0,0864	10604				
42	36 LSF	181	0,0125	10785	18,33			
43	37 QC	227	0,0156	11012				
44	38 QL	17	0,0012	11029				
45	39 QM	611	0,042	11640				
46	40 QR	91	0,0063	11731	6,51			
47	41 SI	19	0,0013	11750				
48	42 SU	500	0,0344	12250	3,57			
49	43 WM	645	0,0444	12895				
50	44 WO	328	0,0226	13223				
51	45 WRM	347	0,0239	13570				
52	46 WRS	668	0,046	14238	13,69			
53	47 XADJPR	7	0,0005	14245				
54	48 XNCO	1	0,0001	14246				

# Types of errors by categories IV



The screenshot shows a Microsoft Excel spreadsheet titled "TOTAL ERRORES TODOS NIVELES\_GQ [Modo de compatibilidad] - Excel". The table has columns A through I. Column A contains numerical codes (e.g., 34, 35, 36, 37, 38, 39, 40, 41, 42, 43, 44, 45, 46, 47, 48, 49, 50, 51, 52, 53, 54). Column B lists error names: LPF, LS, LSF, QC, QL, QM, QR, SI, SU, WM, WO, WRM, WRS, XADJPR, XNCO, XNPR, XNUC, XPRCO, XVCO, XVPR, and Z. Column C contains numerical values (e.g., 167, 1255, 181, 227, 17, 611, 91, 19, 500, 645, 328, 347, 668, 7, 1, 3, 43, 89, 7, 107, 36). Column D contains numerical values (e.g., 0,0115, 0,0864, 0,0125, 0,0156, 0,0012, 0,042, 0,0063, 0,0013, 0,0344, 0,0444, 0,0226, 0,0239, 0,046, 0,0005, 0,0001, 0,0002, 0,003, 0,0061, 0,0005, 0,0074, 0,0025). Column E contains numerical values (e.g., 9349, 10604, 10785, 11012, 11029, 11640, 11731, 11750, 12250, 12895, 13223, 13570, 14238, 14245, 14246, 14249, 14292, 14381, 14388, 14495, 14531). Column F contains numerical values (e.g., 18,33, 6,51, 3,57, 13,69). Column G, H, and I are empty.

40	34	LPF	167	0,0115	9349			
41	35	LS	1255	0,0864	10604			
42	36	LSF	181	0,0125	10785	18,33		
43	37	QC	227	0,0156	11012			
44	38	QL	17	0,0012	11029			
45	39	QM	611	0,042	11640			
46	40	QR	91	0,0063	11731	6,51		
47	41	SI	19	0,0013	11750			
48	42	SU	500	0,0344	12250	3,57		
49	43	WM	645	0,0444	12895			
50	44	WO	328	0,0226	13223			
51	45	WRM	347	0,0239	13570			
52	46	WRS	668	0,046	14238	13,69		
53	47	XADJPR	7	0,0005	14245			
54	48	XNCO	1	0,0001	14246			
55	49	XNPR	3	0,0002	14249			
56	50	XNUC	43	0,003	14292			
57	51	XPRCO	89	0,0061	14381			
58	52	XVCO	7	0,0005	14388			
59	53	XVPR	107	0,0074	14495	1,78		
60	54	Z	36	0,0025	14531	0,2		

# Frequency of errors by categories

Cat. error	Percent.	Frequency
Grammar	42,6	6192
Lexis	18,33	2662
W	13,69	1988
F	13,29	1931
Q	6,51	946
S	3,57	519
X (LG)	1,78	257
Z	0,2	36
Totals	100%	14531

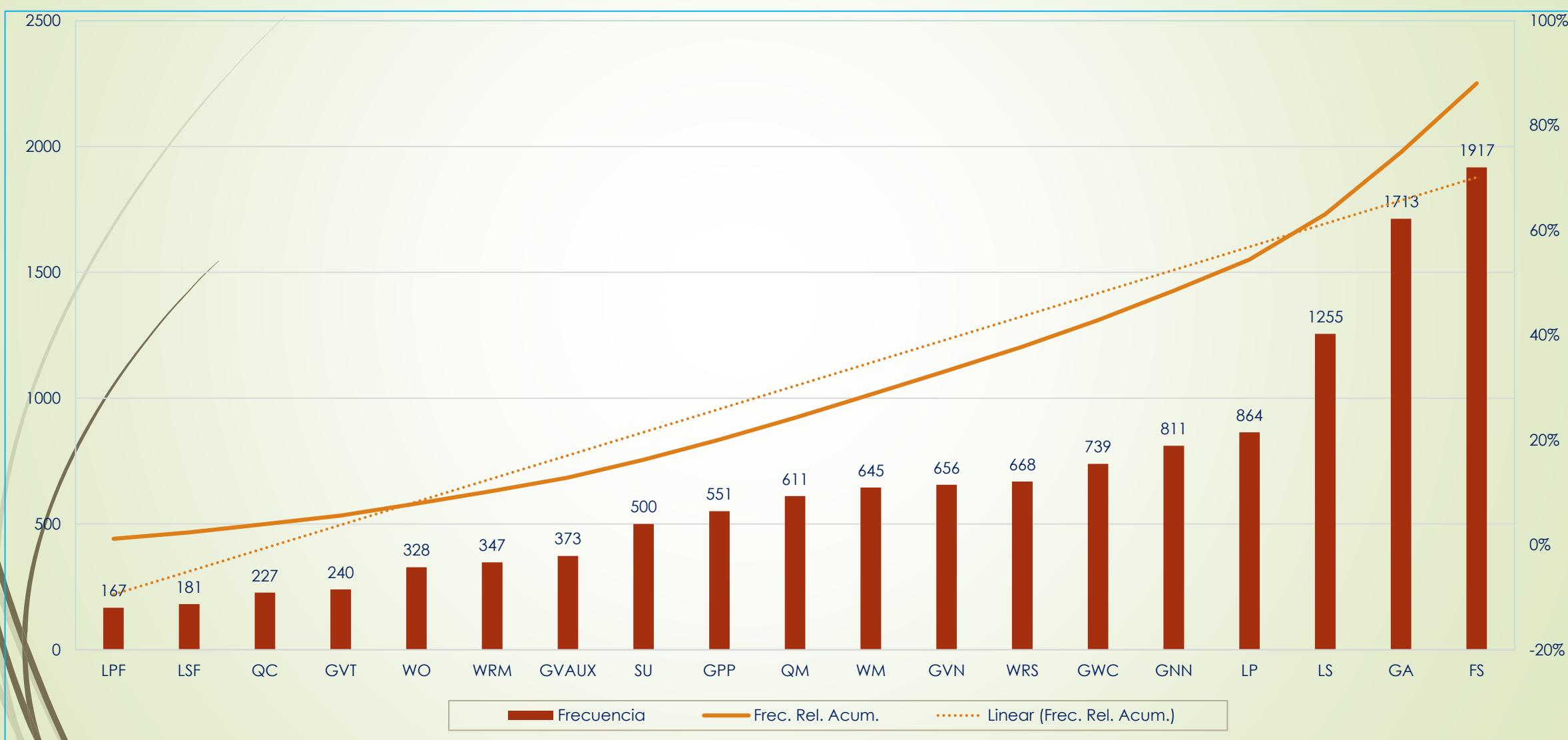
# Comparative chart by type of errors in different levels I

A1		A1.2		B1		B1.3 & B2					
Error	Frequency Percentage	Error	Frequency Percentage	Error	Frequency Percentage	Error	Frequency Percentage				
FS	1.040	18,35%	FS	529	16,44%	FS	119	20,70%	LS	579	11,42%
GA	836	14,75%	GA	361	11,22%	GA	90	15,65%	GA	426	8,40%
LS	441	7,78%	QM	205	6,37%	GNN	44	7,65%	GWC	355	7,00%
GNN	374	6,60%	LS	199	6,18%	LS	36	6,26%	WRS	347	6,84%
LP	349	6,16%	LP	185	5,75%	SU	35	6,09%	GNN	308	6,07%
WM	312	5,50%	SU	178	5,53%	GVAUX	27	4,70%	LP	308	6,07%
GVN	277	4,89%	GWC	170	5,28%	LP	22	3,83%	QM	242	4,77%
WRS	200	3,53%	WM	151	4,69%	GVN	20	3,48%	FS	229	4,52%
GWC	195	3,44%	GPP	150	4,66%	QM	20	3,48%	GVN	221	4,36%
GPP	179	3,16%	GVN	138	4,29%	WRS	20	3,48%	GPP	203	4,00%

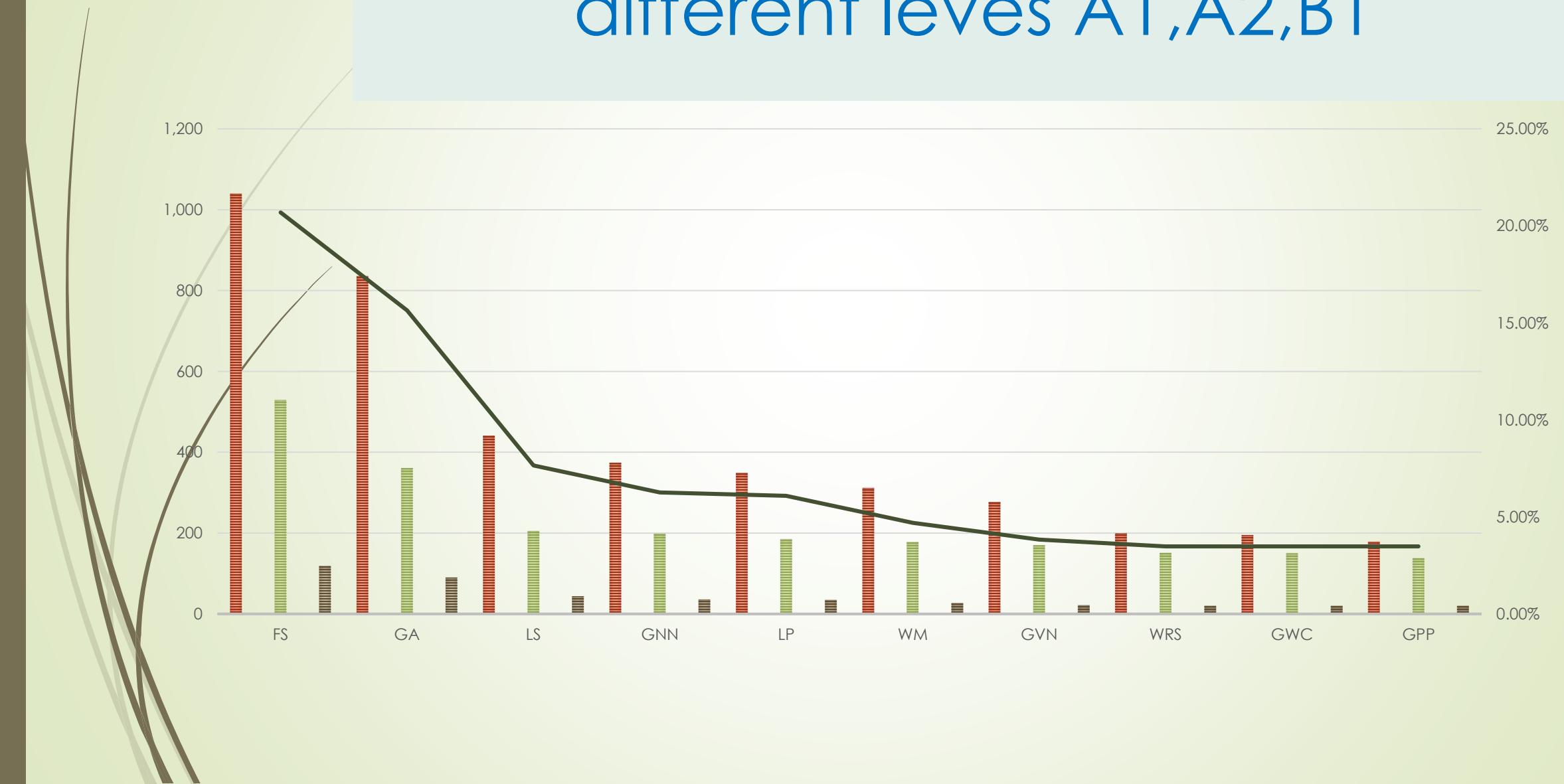
## Absolute and relative frequency of errors chart.

Error	A. Frequency	Relt. Freq. Acum.	Relative Freq.
LPF	167	1%	0,0115
LSF	181	2%	0,0125
QC	227	4%	0,0156
GVT	240	6%	0,0165
WO	328	8%	0,0226
WRM	347	10%	0,0239
GVAUX	373	13%	0,0257
SU	500	16%	0,0344
GPP	551	20%	0,0379
QM	611	24%	0,042
WM	645	29%	0,0444
GVN	656	33%	0,0451
WRS	668	38%	0,046
GWC	739	43%	0,0509
GNN	811	48%	0,0558
LP	864	54%	0,0595
LS	1255	63%	0,0864
GA	1713	75%	0,1179
FS	1917	88%	0,1319
Totales	12793	88,931	88,05

# Absolute and relative frequency of errors table



# Trend of the same error in three different leves A1,A2,B1

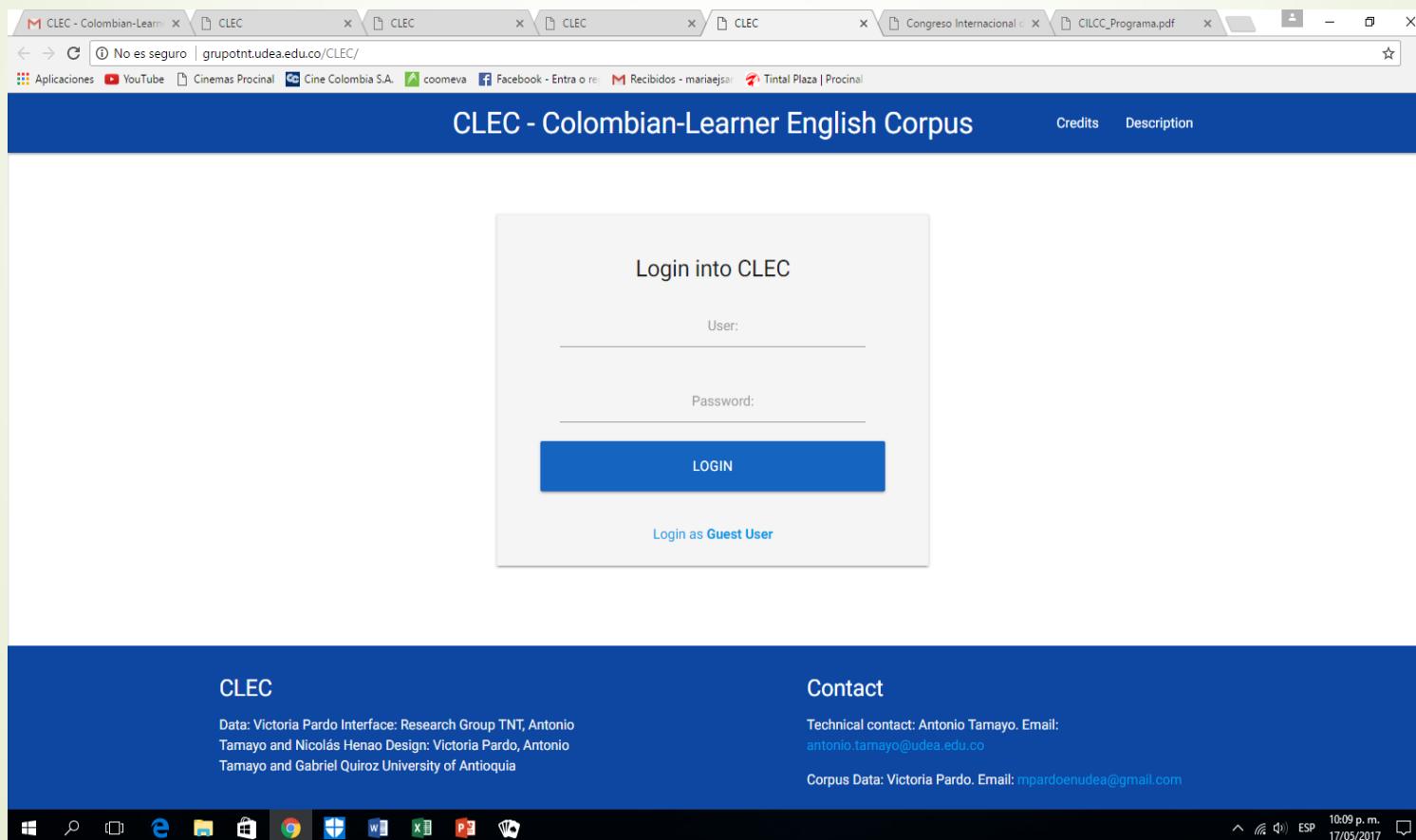


# CLEC - Colombian-Learner English Corpus

<http://grupotnt.udea.edu.co/CLEC/>

<http://grupotnt.udea.edu.co/CLEC/description/index.htm>

<http://grupotnt.udea.edu.co/CLEC/credits/index.htm>



# CLEC - Colombian-Learner English Corpus

## Credits

This corpus has been built under the Doctored thesis entitled "Problemas en la producción escrita del proceso de aprendizaje del inglés como lengua extranjera: un estudio de corpus en estudiantes universitarios de inglés de la costa norte de Colombia" by María Victoria Pardo, under the supervision of Dr. Gabriel Quiroz in the Doctoral Program on Linguistics at University of Antioquia.

Collected Data, correction, tagging and analysis have been done by María Victoria Pardo.

Tagging was done using the Université Catolique de Lovaine error editor software.

Corpus interface was designed by Victoria Pardo, Antonio Tamayo and Gabriel Quiroz.

Computer engineering programming design was done by Antonio Tamayo and Nicolás Henao.

Data collection was done at Universidad del Norte in Barranquilla, Colombia. Collected during the second semester 2015 from students registered in the English program from different careers. Thanks to Universidad del Norte.

To cite the obtained data, please refer as:

CLEC (Online) Medellín: Victoria Pardo and TNT Research Group, Escuela de Idiomas- Universidad de Antioquia. (On Day/Month/ Year)  
(<http://grupotnt.udea.edu.co/CLEC>)

## CLEC

Data: Victoria Pardo Interface: Research Group TNT, Antonio Tamayo and Nicolás Henao Design: Victoria Pardo, Antonio Tamayo and Gabriel Quiroz University of Antioquia

# CLEC - Colombian-Learner English Corpus

## Description

CLEC (Colombian Learner English Corpus) is a Corpus of Learner of English as a foreign language. The corpus is made up of 600 compositions of argumentative texts from English learners of basic, intermediate and upper intermediate levels. The total number of running words is approx. 200.000. The Corpus was tagged using error tagging UCLE software from the Université de Lovaine. This web app is useful for English teachers in Colombia to know statistics on most common errors of Colombian Learners and find examples. Thank you very much to those students who gave their permission to use data for the doctoral research and the Universidad del Norte for giving special attention and permission to carry out the project. Data is used anonymously to protect students' identity. Data is used solely for research purposes. Feedback on data interface, or general comments can be emailed to Victoria Pardo, Gabriel Quiroz or Antonio Tamayo.

## CLEC

Data: Victoria Pardo Interface: Research Group  
TNT, Antonio Tamayo and Nicolás Henao  
Design: Victoria Pardo, Antonio Tamayo and  
Gabriel Quiroz University of Antioquia



# What's next?

- ▶ Further analysis on how students develop and progress in their interlanguage level.
- ▶ Develop a friendlier error tagger for learner corpora.



**THANK YOU**

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