

Too strait is the gate: tagging the aberrant in text-induced learner English.

Robert Spence  
Saarland University

The term "text-induced learner English" is used here as a shorthand for the (often aberrant) variant of English evidenced in the productions of students who are practising the skill of translating texts out of their native German or French into their  $n$ th foreign language English (where  $n$  is optimally less than 4). The degree, nature, and source of the aberrancy encountered in this variant pose high and special demands on the design of a system of XML tags for the corpus-based investigation of learner English, comparative language typology, cross-language registerial specificity, and types of translation strategies. In this paper, I present a preliminary set of such XML tags and illustrate their use in the annotation of a corpus of student translations. I also discuss possible applications of such an annotated corpus in the dual contexts of research and teaching.