

Motivation and Gender Effect in Receptive Vocabulary Learning: An Exploratory Analysis in CLIL Primary Education¹

Motivación y género en el aprendizaje del vocabulario receptivo:
un análisis exploratorio en educación primaria AICLE

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Abstract

The present paper seeks to address the connection between the receptive vocabulary size and motivation towards EFL of a group of CLIL primary graders by paying special attention to learners' gender variation. In particular, our goal is to probe into (1) gender variation in EFL receptive vocabulary size, (2) gender variation in motivation towards the foreign language, and (3) the relationship between motivation towards the foreign language and scores in a receptive vocabulary test. No statistically significant differences are found on gender variation neither in EFL receptive vocabulary size nor in motivation, both boys and girls follow quite similar patterns; finally, we have identified a positive correlation between boys' levels of intrinsic motivation and the number of words they know receptively. The waning effect of CLIL on gender variation, as shown in previous research, is adduced here as one of the possible sources of lack of differences both in vocabulary achievement and motivation.

Key Words: Motivation; receptive vocabulary size; gender; content and language integrated learning (CLIL); English as a foreign language (EFL).

Resumen

En el presente artículo se explora la relación entre el tamaño de vocabulario receptivo y la motivación hacia el inglés como lengua extranjera de un grupo de alumnos AICLE de educación primaria prestando una especial atención a la variación de los resultados según el género de los alumnos. En particular, el objetivo de este estudio es analizar (1) la variación según la variable género de la motivación de los alumnos en el tamaño de vocabulario receptivo, (2) la variación según el género de los alumnos de su motivación hacia la lengua extranjera la lengua extranjera y (3) la relación entre la motivación hacia la lengua extranjera y el tamaño de vocabulario receptivo. No se aprecian diferencias estadísticamente significativas en la variación según la variable género ni en el tamaño de vocabulario receptivo ni en la motivación. Tanto chicos como chicas siguen patrones similares. Sin embargo se ha identificado una correlación positiva entre los niveles de motivación intrínseca de los chicos y el número de palabras que conocen de manera receptiva. Como se ha demostrado en investigaciones previas, se apunta al efecto atenuador de AICLE en la variación de género como una de las posibles razones de esta falta de diferencias en la adquisición de vocabulario y la motivación.

Palabras Claves: motivación; tamaño de vocabulario receptivo; género; aprendizaje integrado de contenidos y lengua extranjera (AICLE); inglés como lengua extranjera (ILE).

¹ This study is part of the research project “Factores individuales y contextuales en la adquisición y desarrollo de la competencia léxica en inglés como lengua extranjera” funded by the Spanish Ministerio de Ciencia e Innovación (Grant Ref. N°: FFI2010-19334/FILO).



INTRODUCTION

Grounded in the Canadian immersion, content and language integrated learning (CLIL) has become a central approach to foreign language learning and teaching in the last twenty years in Europe. CLIL is considered an umbrella term that allows for a myriad of educational practices from those more content-oriented to those more language-oriented. Research on CLIL is abundant and varied. For example, the influence of CLIL in the different language skills and components in across different educational levels and classroom situations has received extensive attention (for example, Dalton-Puffer & Smit, 2007; Ruiz de Zarobe & Jiménez Catalán 2009; Dalton-Puffer, Nikula, & Smit 2010; Llinares, Morton, & Whittaker 2012; Fortanet-Gómez 2013). Motivation is considered a driving force for this type of instruction, as one of the strongest pillars of CLIL is to engage learners in meaningful ways of using the language with a given purpose. The aim of this study is to shed light on the interaction between the receptive vocabulary size and motivation towards English as a foreign language (EFL) of a group of CLIL primary graders. The gender variable is particularly explored in this study. Following, we will review the evidence for these topics found in recent literature.

Individual and contextual factors: motivation, gender and CLIL

Motivation has become a central issue within the field of foreign language learning (Lasagabaster, 2003; Dörnyei & Ushioda 2009; Anglada & Banegas 2012; Gabryś-Barker & Bielska, 2013). Many are the models on motivation found in the literature. The Socio-Psychological model by Gardner and Lambert (1972) was a pioneer in the field. In subsequent years, other models have deserved attention, such as the Self-Determination Theory (Deci & Ryan, 1985; Noels, Pelletier, Clément, & Vallerand, 2000) or more recently the L2 Motivational Self System (Dörnyei 2005; 2009). In different models, the dichotomy between inner and outer reasons for learning languages is relevant. In Gardner and Lambert's model, motivation towards the learning of a language is understood as the desire to command the language through effort, want, affect or attitude. The terms *integrative* and *instrumental orientation* address this double face of motivation. Whilst integrative orientation is construed as the ultimate goal behind learning a foreign language, instrumental orientation is taken to mean the desire to control the foreign language for external reasons. In Self-Determination Theory, external



factors are covered by extrinsic motivation and internal factors are included in the term intrinsic motivation. However, a deep study of each model would shed light on the differences between each set of terms. Whatever model is used, a positive correlation is generally observed between motivation and foreign language learning, as a considerable amount of research has consistently shown (for example, Schmidt & Watanabe, 2001; Masgoret & Gardner, 2003; Csizér & Dörnyei, 2005; Bernaus & Gardner, 2008; Yu & Watkins, 2008).

In motivation studies it is also frequent to tackle the relationship of motivation with other variables, such as gender or age. The variable of gender, for instance, has been widely studied in motivation research. Overall, statistically significant variation that shows higher levels of motivation in girls is identified in a substantial body of studies (for example, Sung & Padilla, 1998; Dörnyei & Csizér, 2002; Mori & Gobel, 2006; Henry & Apeltgren, 2008; Dabbagh & Khajehpour, 2011; Henry 2012). Exceptions are also noted, such as by Azarnoosh and Birjandi (2012), who identified no differences between attitudinal factors towards the foreign language of male and female junior high school students. The female advantage is also extended to types of motivation since there is ample conclusive evidence that girls are more integratively and instrumentally motivated than boys (for example, Dörnyei & Clement, 2001; Dörnyei & Csizér, 2002; Dörnyei, Csizér, & Németh 2006).

Situational factors are also agreed to shape language learners' motivation. Through cognitively rich activities, for example, CLIL pedagogies attempt to provide language learning with a meaningful context that is missing in traditional EFL instruction. The philosophy behind CLIL suggests that motivation is likely to increase as a result of this new mode of instruction, and this growth would presumably affect positively learners' language achievement. Thus, learners' motivation becomes an implicit element in CLIL, as postulated in CLIL handbooks (Mehisto, Marsh & Frigols, 2008; Coyle, Hood, & Marsh, 2010). Some critical voices have already argued against the important empirical gap that concerns the interaction between motivation and CLIL (Bruton, 2011, as cited by Cenoz, Genesee, & Gorter, 2013, p. 14). In general, research has focused on analysing the interaction between motivation and language achievement. For example, Lasagabaster (2011) finds higher levels for CLIL learners in different types of motivation, in their attitudes towards EFL, effort and in their grammar results. Also Huang (2011) identifies an improvement in motivation and in the



academic performance of a group of 25 primary learners in Taiwan. Learners participated more actively in content classes than in language classes and they were more eager to volunteer and classroom verbal output. Further studies, such as Murtagh (2007) or Seikkula-Leino (2007), also conclude that there exists a positive connection between language learning and motivation.

In any case, in the interpretation of motivation results, issues that remain relatively under-researched should be covered. Among them, we should note the ideas that in many cases the CLIL students are already motivated towards the foreign language before they enroll to this type of instruction or that the requirement of using a language unknown to the learner might cause a decrease in motivation as a result of a loss of self-esteem (Cenoz, Genesee, & Gorter 2013, p. 14–15). An example of this is highlighted in a study by Mearns (2012), who found higher levels of motivation towards German as a foreign language of a group of CLIL secondary graders but, on the other hand, that “speaking in front of the class” activities affected their levels of confidence. The most able students exceeded their previous results, but little improvement was perceived in the less able pupils. As Doiz, Lasagabaster, and Sierra (in press) note, although CLIL students prove to be more motivated than non-CLIL students, this type of result should be analysed with caution since contextual variables and individual variables, such as age and sex, might be having some effect on the results.

Some studies have also reported some results about the confluence of motivation and gender in CLIL settings. In the Canadian immersion context, a line of research studies identifies some sort of weakening of gender variation in language achievement, which favours males’ achievement and motivation (Baker and MacIntyre 2000). The same waning effect is identified by Merisuo-Storm (2007) in an investigation with primary education students in Finland. By contrast, Lasagabaster and Sierra (2009) concluded that in weaker versions of CLIL, this effect is not perceived and an overall girls’ superiority is identified, following the tendency in research on motivation and language learning in non-CLIL settings.

L2 receptive vocabulary knowledge

L2 vocabulary learning is a major topic within the field of applied linguistics. Studies in this particular area distinguish between productive and receptive



vocabulary knowledge (for example, Schmitt, 2000; Qian, 2002; López Mezquita, 2005; Nation, 2006). While the former is related to the production of words in order to match speakers' intention both in writing and speaking, the latter addresses the perception of words and meaning comprehension in listening and reading (Nation, 2001). Receptive vocabulary size—that is, the number of words that learners know—often correlates with proficiency, exposure to the language, and also frequency of vocabulary input (Fan 2000; Golberg, Paradis, & Crago, 2008). Some of these features can be identified in CLIL since it provides repeated exposure to new vocabulary and contextualization, as Xanthou (2010) notes.

The effect of motivation on vocabulary learning has often been left unexplored in the literature. Few studies have paid attention to this relationship. Laufer and Hulstijn (2001) discuss the Involvement Load Hypothesis, which refers to the cognitive and motivational weight of vocabulary tasks. Based on this hypothesis, Kim (2008) concludes that there is a connection between motivation and lexical performance; a meta-analysis conducted by Huang, Eslami, and Wilson (2012) confirms this finding. For example, these authors found that language learners who completed an output task outperformed those who only read a text, and language learners who performed a task with a higher degree of involvement load gained more vocabulary. In a longitudinal study, Zheng (2012) makes use of Dörnyei's (2005) L2 Motivational Self System, to identify a very complex interplay between learners' fluctuating motivational levels and productive vocabulary development. Along the same lines, Tseng and Schmitt (2008) probe into vocabulary knowledge and motivation and suggest that motivated vocabulary learning follows a developmental mode and functions as a cyclic process as learners' motivation towards vocabulary learning ebbs and flows over a period of time.

In interpreting how motivation affects vocabulary acquisition, the productive-receptive types of vocabulary should be particularly addressed. An issue that could be affecting motivation is that vocabulary production is a more demanding task than vocabulary reception, as Laufer and Paribakht (1998) point out. Nation (2001, p. 28) reinforces this aspect by suggesting that we need to have a sense of wanting to convey a message, something which is missing in receptive vocabulary tasks.

So far, however, there have been fewer studies that combine L2 vocabulary achievement together with gender and motivation in a CLIL setting. With utmost



caution, as CLIL is implemented under different conditions, research has shown that CLIL favours receptive and productive types of vocabulary, the learning of more low frequency words and more varied stylistic range, as Dalton-Puffer (2011, p. 186) notes. Fernández-Fontecha (2010b) detects that females' show higher levels of motivation and that these levels correlate positively with their achievement in a productive vocabulary task. In this study, intrinsic and extrinsic types of motivation have a strong effect on girls' production of L2 vocabulary. A more recent study by Heras and Lasagabaster (in press) concludes that CLIL reduces gender variation in motivation and that achievement in technical content-related vocabulary results benefited from CLIL both for male and female secondary education students.

Having highlighted the double paucity of research—first, on individual variables that interact with motivation in CLIL, and second, with regards to the effect of motivational factors in vocabulary learning—the present paper explores the relationship between motivation and L2 vocabulary learning in a CLIL setting by probing into the study of (1) gender variation in EFL receptive vocabulary size, (2) gender variation in motivation towards the foreign language, and (3) the relationship between motivation towards the foreign language and scores in a receptive vocabulary test.

METHODOLOGY

Participants

The participants of this study were a group of 55 Spanish-speaking EFL learners in the fifth grade of primary education. This group consisted of 30 boys and 25 girls, aged around 10-11 years old. They all belonged to a school centre located in La Rioja, in the north of Spain, and were enrolled in a CLIL programme called PILC-B (Proyectos de Innovación Lingüística en Centros/School Language Innovation Projects). In type B of this programme, a subject or part of a subject is taught in the foreign language by content teachers (Fernández-Fontecha, 2010a). The type of CLIL implementation can be considered a weak one. At the time of data collection, these students had received approximately 839 hours of instruction in EFL. They had been exposed to 524 hours of English as the object of instruction, and they had also received 315 extra hours of CLIL English



through Natural Sciences. Textbooks and other materials written in English were used in the CLIL classes.

Data gathering instrument, procedures and analysis

As a data collection instrument to measure learners' receptive vocabulary size, we used Schmitt, Schmitt and Clapham's (2001) version 2 of the 2,000-word frequency-band from the receptive version of the Vocabulary Levels Test (2K VLT) (Appendix 1). This test covers 10 groups of 6 words, with 3 definitions per group. The test-takers must match each target word to its corresponding definition. The maximum score is 30 points; correct matching is given 1 point. The test-takers had 10 minutes to complete the test. In order to calculate the students' word we applied the following formula developed by Nation (1990, p.78): Vocabulary size = N correct answers multiplied by total N words in dictionary (the relevant word list) divided by N items in test. The VLT test has been extensively used and validated in research (Agustín Llach & Terrazas Gallego, 2012; Mokhtar *et al.*, 2010; Cameron, 2002; Schmitt, Schmitt, & Clapham, 2001; Laufer & Paribakht, 1998; Schmitt & Meara, 1997; Read, 1988). With a word-definition matching format, it assesses receptive vocabulary size or breadth based on the subjects' recognition of words of graded frequency lists of 2,000, 3,000, and 5,000 words, the Academic Word List, and the 10,000 most frequent words in English. Knowing words in a frequency band implies knowing words in all lower bands. In general, VLT studies conclude that the L2 proficiency level or the time of exposure to the foreign language affects the number of words learners know receptively.

In order to assess general, intrinsic and extrinsic motivation, we made use of a questionnaire adapted from Gardner's (1985) Attitude/Motivation Test Battery (A/MTB) (Appendix 2). It consists of a semantic differential technique of 7-point bipolar rating Likert scale using the following 7 pairs of bipolar adjectives: 'necessary'/'unnecessary', 'ugly'/'nice', 'attractive'/'unattractive', 'pleasant'/'unpleasant', 'important'/'unimportant', 'useful'/'useless', and 'interesting'/'boring'. These adjectives are introduced with the Spanish phrase "*Considero que el inglés es ...*" ("I consider English to be ..."). Intrinsic motivation is measured through the pairs 'ugly'/'nice', 'attractive'/'unattractive', 'pleasant'/'unpleasant', and 'interesting'/'boring'; extrinsic motivation is



measured through the pairs ‘necessary’/‘unnecessary’, ‘important’/‘unimportant’, and ‘useful’/‘useless’. The pair ‘difficult’/‘easy’ is also included as a kind of distractor since it does not measure motivation. General motivation is tested through the 7 pairs of adjectives. It is important to note here that in this study we make use of a simplified version of intrinsic and extrinsic motivation; that is, one in which intrinsic motivation is defined by learners’ opinions on endogenous factors of EFL and extrinsic motivation refers to exogenous factors of learning a foreign language. Other aspects related to motivation are not considered here.

Finally, we coded data from the VLT and the motivation scale and analysed them through SPSS (Statistical Package for Social Sciences) (version 19.0).

RESULTS

Gender variation in EFL receptive vocabulary size.

As Table 1 shows, the patterns for boys and girls are quite similar, with a slight advantage in favour of boys. The maximum score in the 2K VLT is 30 points. The boys’ mean was 10.93 and girls’ was 10.16. However, these differences are not statistically significant: $t(53) = 0.704$, $p = 0.773$. Higher standard deviation was identified in the case of girls (4.30 vs. 3.84). Minimum and maximum results were almost the same in both cases.

Table 1. 2K VLT: Descriptive statistics

Groups	Min.	Max.	Mean	SD
All	1	19	10.58	4.04
Boys (n=30)	1	19	10.93	3.84
Girls (n=25)	2	19	10.16	4.30

In Table 2, we present the results from both groups after applying Nation’s (1990, p. 78) formula: Vocabulary size = N correct answers multiplied by total N words in dictionary (the relevant word list) divided by N items in test. Thus, we perceive that no group reaches a mean word estimate of 1,000 words: boys know 728 words, and girls know 677 words.



Table 2. Word estimates

Groups	Min.	Max.	Mean	SD
All	67	1267	705	269
Boys (n=30)	67	1267	728	256
Girls (n=25)	133	1267	677	287

Gender variation in motivation towards the foreign language.

In these results, we make use the following acronyms: GMot (general motivation), IMot (intrinsic motivation), and EMot (extrinsic motivation). We wanted to identify how motivated (GMot), how intrinsically motivated (IMot), and how extrinsically motivated (EMot) our learners were. As can be seen from Table 3, the results in motivation are quite similar in all cases in both groups. Boys and girls' means of motivation (general and types) are around 5 and 6. In the test of motivation we applied, 7 is the highest result. Girls score slightly higher with regards to GMot and IMot, but boys surpass them in EMot. However, these differences are not statistically significant: GMot: $t(53) = 0.080$, $p = 0.937$; IMot: $t(52) = -0.593$, $p = 0.556$; and EMot: $t(53) = 1.068$, $p = 0.291$. We note a high homogeneity in these results as low standard deviation (SD) is identified in all cases. Greater standard deviation is found in the case of girls' GMot and IMot (Figure 1).

Table 3. Motivation: Descriptive statistics

Gender	Motivation	Mean	Max.	Min.	SD
Boys (n=30)	GMot	5.91	7	4.14	0.78
	IMot	5.31	7	3	0.99
	EMot	6.66	7	5	0.61
Girls (n=25)	GMot	5.89	7	3.86	0.98
	IMot	5.50	7	3	1.32
	EMot	6.45	7	3.67	0.86

In addition to identifying mean values of motivation, we wanted to know how the learners were distributed across the different levels of general motivation. For



that purpose, we established three levels of mean general motivation. Level 1 covers low motivation marks (that is, 1.0–3.0) level 2 comprises medium motivation marks (that is, 3.01–5.0), and level 3 includes high motivation marks, (that is, 5.01–7.0). Table 5 displays the results across these levels by gender. The patterns obtained are very similar. No girl or boy obtained low motivation marks.

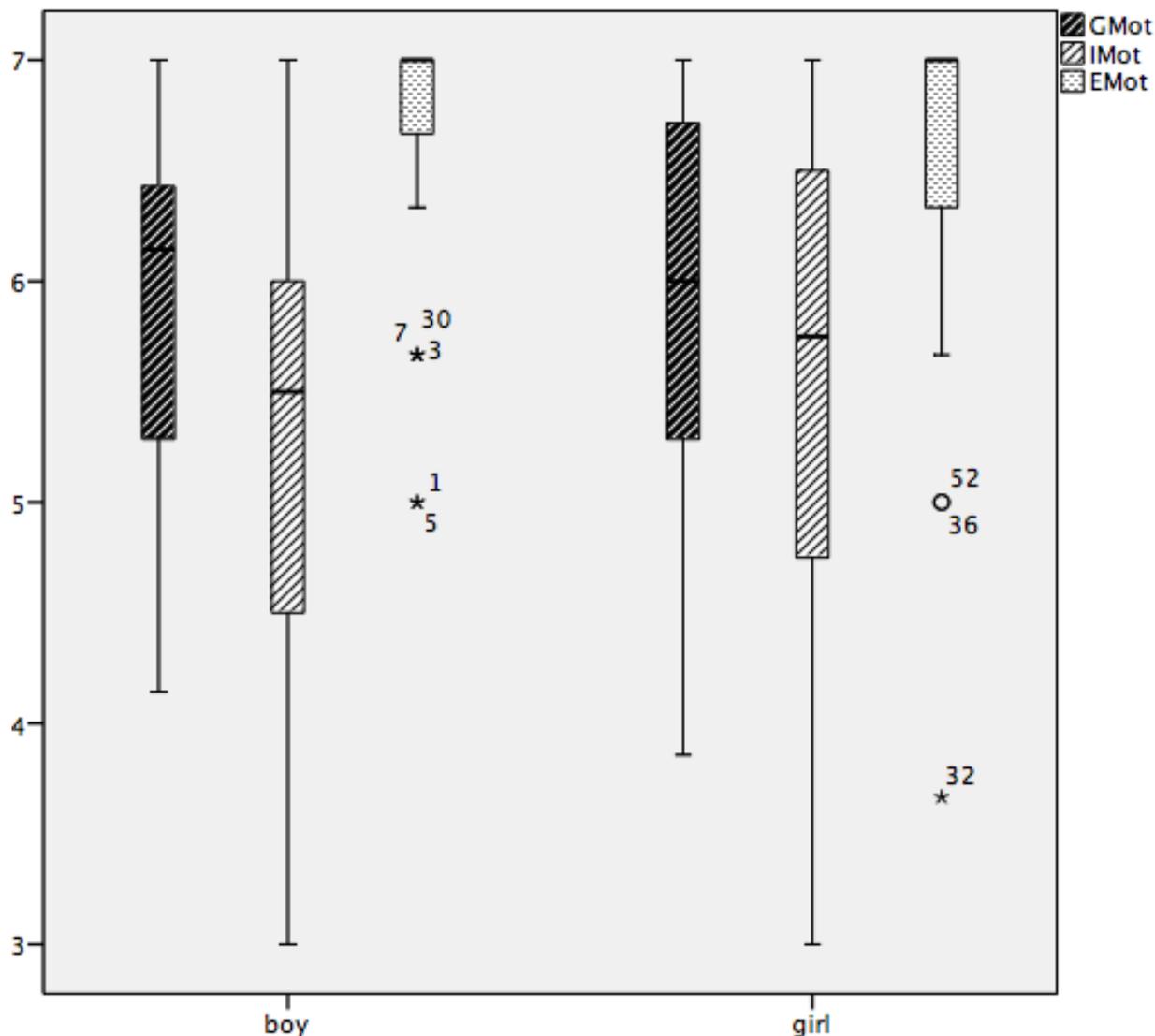


Figure 1. Motivation: Males and females' median values

Table 4. Levels of GMot: number and percentage of learners

GMot	Level 2	Level 3
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Boys (n=30)	N	4	26
	%	13	86
Girls (n=25)	N	5	20
	%	20	80

We also identified a statistically significant correlation between both types of motivation, intrinsic and extrinsic, in boys and girls, as displayed in Table 5.

Table 5. Correlation between IMot and EMot per sex

		IMot	
		<i>r</i>	<i>p</i>
Males	EMot	.639**	.000
Females	Emot	.468*	.024

** Correlation is significant at the 0.01 level.

* Correlation is significant at the 0.05 level

Relationship between motivation towards the foreign language and scores in a receptive vocabulary test.

We used Pearson's correlation coefficient to measure this relationship. As can be seen from Table 6, only in the case of boys the correlation between the 2K VLT and GMot ($r(30) = 0.497$, $p = 0.005$) and 2K VLT and IMot ($r(25) = 0.487$), $p = 0.007$) is statistically significant. As for 2K VLT and EMot, the correlation is not statistically significant in any case.

Table 6. Correlation between motivation and 2K VLT

		2K VLT	
		<i>r</i>	<i>p</i>
Males	Gmot	.497**	.005
	Imot	.487**	.007
	Emot	.256	.172
Females	Gmot	.025	.906
	Imot	-.002	.993
	Emot	.051	.809

** Correlation is significant at the 0.01 level.



DISCUSSION

The first research question of this study asks whether there were any gender differences in the size of EFL receptive vocabulary of learners. The results obtained show that, although males are slightly more motivated, both boys and girls follow similar patterns, although this variation is not statistically significant. This result is consistent with inconclusive results in previous research on gender variation in receptive tasks (Agustín & Terrazas, 2012).

Another point worth mentioning here is that, with 839 hours of exposure to English as a foreign language, neither boys nor girls reach a mean word estimate of 1,000 words. This figure is considerably lower than the one obtained by learners with fewer hours of exposure (for example, Milton & Meara, 1998; Takala, 1985). However, we could also add that the scores obtained by our sample of CLIL students are close to the scores obtained by 7th grade/1st secondary education students in a quite similar context (Terrazas Gallego & Agustín Llach, 2009). These students were exposed to the foreign language during 734 hours of instruction, and they obtained a mean word estimate of 817 words. With regards to the poor results obtained by this group of learners, Canga Alonso (2013) provides an explanation for similar results in a study of which our sample is a part. This author points to the need for examining the type of vocabulary input included in textbooks together with the number of occurrences of the words. Further studies should ascertain whether the poor results in the number of receptive words is somehow determined by the type of vocabulary—low frequency and more technical—to which these learners are exposed since, according to Dalton-Puffer (2011) or Heras and Lasagabaster (in press), CLIL contributes positively to the achievement of technical content-related vocabulary. To learn low frequency technical words through any content subject should not have a detrimental effect on knowing fewer high frequency words. In fact, previous studies have reported that CLIL fosters receptive vocabulary knowledge (for example, Jiménez Catalán, Ruiz de Zarobe, & Cenoz 2006; Jiménez Catalán & Ruiz de Zarobe, 2009).

The second research question addresses the differences in motivation levels of boys and girls. As in the case of receptive vocabulary knowledge, the male and female subjects of this study follow a similar pattern: first, there are more girls and boys who were highly motivated (level 3), followed by those who were



motivated (level 2), and there were no students with low motivation; second, most students were more extrinsically than intrinsically motivated. Girls were more motivated than boys in general and in intrinsic motivation. Boys were more extrinsically motivated than girls. In other words, most boys and girls mainly thought that learning English as a foreign language was necessary, important, or useful, and boys in particular perceived the foreign language as more necessary, important, or useful than nice, attractive, pleasant, or interesting. Girls found English more attractive, pleasant, interesting, or nicer than boys did. However, this variation is not statistically significant. In another analysis, the correlation between intrinsic and extrinsic motivation in both groups has proven to be statistically significant, which means that learners who are intrinsically motivated are also extrinsically motivated, and *vice versa*. Finally, standard deviation is higher in the case of girls; boys behave more homogeneously in their motivational levels.

Overall, these findings point to there being no differences between boys and girls' motivation towards the foreign language. This absence of variation differs from the results of an important number of studies, which have reported a female advantage (for example, Sung & Padilla 1998; Dörnyei & Csizér, 2002; Mori and Gobel, 2006; Henry & Apelgren, 2008; Dabbagh & Khajehpour, 2011; Henry 2012). In addition, the fact that there are not statistically significant gender differences in the types of motivation levels stands in contrast to earlier findings, (for example, Dörnyei & Clement, 2001; Dörnyei & Csizér, 2002; Dörnyei, Csizér & Németh, 2006), which concluded that girls obtain higher levels of both types of motivation. The present study's results are, however, in agreement with the research conducted by Azarnoosh and Birjandi (2012), who observed no differences in the attitude of males and females junior high school students.

The findings of the current study are likewise in line with recent research on CLIL, motivation, and gender variation, which found that CLIL has some waning effect on gender variation in language achievement, favouring males' achievement and motivation (Baker & MacIntyre, 2000; Merisuo-Sorm, 2007). Although, the findings are at the same time against the idea noted by Lasagabaster and Sierra (2009), who explain that in weaker versions of CLIL this waning effect is cancelled out and a females' superiority is still present. In the context of the present study, a weak model of CLIL was implemented.



The third question of this study is whether there were any connections between males and females' motivation and their receptive vocabulary size. A statistically significant relationship was obtained only in the case of males' vocabulary size and its connection with intrinsic and general motivation. This suggests that males' perception of English as nice, attractive, pleasant, or interesting is having some effect on the number of words they know receptively or that, due to the bidirectional interaction between motivation and language achievement, males' results in the 2K VLT are also affecting their motivation levels. External factors are not identified as driving forces behind language achievement for any gender. The fact that intrinsic motivation is significantly connected to vocabulary results in this study supports the findings of previous studies, such as those of Bernaus and Gardner (2008) and Yu and Watkins (2008), which found that this type of motivation is a better predictor of language results than extrinsic motivation, as internal desires can lead students more strongly than external factors towards the completion of a particular task. This idea makes particular sense in the case of primary education students, who seem not very likely to perceive the practical purpose of learning a foreign language. However, research on these issues by Jurišević and Pižorn (2013, p. 191-192) concluded that external motivations are age- and context-dependent, as children also reported a desire to learn a foreign language to understand, for example, cartoons and other types of texts and materials.

Finally, as addressed in the review of the literature, the issue of the relationship between motivation and the productive-receptive types of vocabulary acquisition should be granted special attention here. Following Nation (2001, p. 28), in his illustration of the productive task, the sense of wanting to convey a message is a more demanding task than understanding words. Maybe this idea could explain the overall lack of statistically significant connections between motivation and the results in the VLT. A research study comparing motivation levels and achievement in receptive and productive vocabulary tasks would help clarify this issue.

Conclusion

The main results of this investigation show that (1) there are no statistically significant differences in the number of EFL words that boys and girls know of



the 2,000-word frequency-band from the receptive version of the Vocabulary Levels Test (2K VLT), (2) no gender-based variation is identified in different types of motivation towards English as a Foreign Language, and (3) only the relationship between boys' intrinsic motivation towards EFL and the number of words they know receptively is statistically significant. Despite its exploratory nature, this study offers some insights into males and females' receptive vocabulary and motivation patterns. The lack of substantial gender-variation on both issues could be the resulting effect of CLIL, as reported in the literature.

However, with a small sample size, caution must be applied. Indeed, the sample size is one of the major limitations of this study. Perhaps a study conducted with a larger sample of students could help explain the connection between intrinsic motivation and vocabulary achievement in the case of boys. Another limitation is that the present study cannot explain whether CLIL is the only cause for the findings in motivation and vocabulary achievement, as the way that CLIL as carried out in the day-by-day classes has not been considered. Therefore, it is recommended that further research be undertaken in these areas at least in two ways: first, it seems advisable to conduct a longitudinal study in order to investigate the evolution of boys and girls' results in the two variables at stake here; and second, a comparative study on the results of this group of CLIL students and another group of non-CLIL students of the same age, if possible, could be of great help in explaining the role of CLIL in the findings. Another important caveat is to be noted regarding the type of task or test used to assess vocabulary knowledge and the scale used in measuring motivation. A replica study could be designed to examine whether these instruments might have had some effect on the results. For example, the 7-point rating scale that assesses motivation could be simplified with young children, as they may have difficulties in understanding the difference between a given value and the immediately preceding value.

Although the current study has only identified one statistically significant finding on the relationship between boys' intrinsic motivation and their achievement in receptive vocabulary, this finding may suggest the value of adopting a teaching approach that preserves the motivational and affective side of language learners. Moreover, if we interpret the lack of gender-variation in vocabulary size and motivation levels as CLIL's weakening gender effect, then teachers should consider CLIL as a valuable resource for coping with traditionally



reported gender-based advantages and disadvantages in the foreign language classroom.

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APPENDIX 1: 2K VLT

This appendix presents the 2,000-word frequency-band from the receptive version of the Vocabulary Levels Test (2K VLT) (Schmitt, Schmitt, & Clapham 2001).

Example		Example	
1 business		1 business	
2 clock	___ part of a house	2 clock	__6__ part of a house
3 horse	___ animal with 4 legs	3 horse	__3__ animal with 4 legs
4 pencil	___ something used for writing	4 pencil	__4__ something used for writing
5 shoe		5 show	
6 wall		6 wall	
1 coffee		1 adopt	
2 disease	___ money for work	2 climb	___ go up
3 justice	___ a piece of clothing	3 examine	___ look at closely
4 skirt	___ using the law in the right way	4 pour	___ be on every side
5 stage		5 satisfy	
6 wage		6 surround	
1 choice		1 backe	
2 crop	___ heat	2 connect	___ join together
3 flesh	___ meat	3 inquire	___ walk without purpose
4 salary	___ money paid regularly for doing a job	4 limit	___ keep within a certain size
5 secret		5 recognize	
6 temperature		6 wander	
1 cap		1 burst	
2 education	___ teaching and learning	2 concern	___ break open
3 journey	___ numbers to measure with	3 deliver	___ make better
4 parent	___ going to a far place	4 fold	___ take something to someone
5 scale		5 improve	
6 trick		6 urge	
1 attack		1 original	
2 charm	___ gold and silver	2 private	___ first
3 lack	___ pleasing quality	3 royal	___ not public
4 pen	___ not having something	4 slow	___ all added together
5 shadow		5 sorry	
6 treasure		6 total	
1 cream		1 ancient	
2 factory	___ part of milk	2 curious	___ not easy
3 nail	___ a lot of money	3 difficult	___ very old
4 pupil	___ person who is studying	4 entire	___ related to God
5 sacrifice		5 holy	
6 wealth		6 social	



APPENDIX 2: LIKERT ADAPTED FROM GARDNER'S (1985) A/MTB SCALE

Table 7. Likert adapted from Gardner's (1985) A/MTB scale.

Necesario								Innecesario
Feo								Bonito
Difícil								Fácil
Atractivo								No atractivo
Agradable								Desagradable
Poco importante								Importante
Inútil								Útil
Interesante								Aburrido

BIODATA

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