

CHDV 242

Language Development

I. Introduction - the task of language acquisition

II. The course of Language acquisition

A. Prelinguistic Development

1. Auditory development
2. Phonological Development

B. Lexical (semantic) Development

1. Overgeneralizations/ undergeneralizations
2. Constraints:
 - Mutual exclusivity/competition
 - Focus on the whole
3. Flexible Learning vs. child's agenda
4. Learning from context
5. Word learning and concept development

C. Grammatical Development

1. Item-based & feature-based patterns
2. grammatical markers

D. Pragmatic Development

1. conversational skills
2. referential skills
3. sociolinguistic understanding

E. Literacy

III. Theoretical approaches to language acquisition

Discussion:

1) A theory of language must account for not only the language behavior of children but also the processes responsible for language growth. In other words, we must explain not only why children say what they do but why they eventually speak like adults. How would each of these theorists explain language acquisition?

- Behaviorist
- Nativist
- Cognitive Interactionist (Piaget)
- Cultural Context (Vygotsky)
- Systems theories

2) What role do adults and larger social institutions play in language development? How has this changed over time?