

Language Development

Spring 2005

Psych 143

Instructor: Carla Hudson Kam
3431 Tolman Hall
2-8615
clhudson@socrates.berkeley.edu
Office hours: Tuesdays 2-3 pm or by appointment (OBA)

GSIs:

Tim Beyer	Amy Finn
5323 Tolman Hall	3316 Tolman Hall
timbeyer@socrates.Berkeley.edu	amyfinn@uclink.berkeley.edu
Thurs 12-1, OBA	Weds 1-2 (may change), OBA

Class Meetings: Tuesday & Thursday 11am -12 pm, 277 Cory Hall

Course Description: This course focuses on the acquisition of a first language by children, including the acquisition of phonology (the sound system of the language), semantics (the meaning of units in the language), syntax (the structure of sentences), morphology (the structure of words), and pragmatics (language use). Along with covering the time-course of acquisition (i.e. what abilities develop when), we will consider other topics such as: the theories of acquisition, the question of whether other animals can acquire human language, and the notion that there is a critical or sensitive period for language acquisition. Although much of the literature on language development involves the acquisition of English, whenever possible data will be presented from the acquisition of other spoken and signed languages.

Requirements: Grades will be based on three exams, (2 in-class, 25% each, 1 during finals week, 30%), one 3-5 page assignment (10%), and 10 short summaries of the articles in the reader (1% each). Class and section attendance are not required, but you are strongly encouraged to attend both. Exams will cover content not included in the text, and the 3-5 page assignment will be given out and explained in sections.

Textbook: Hoff, Erika. (2005). Language Development, 3rd edition. Belmont, CA: Wadsworth/Thomson Learning.

Readings: Selected sections from textbook, and papers in course reader. Additional material including lecture slides will be available at Blackboard (bb.berkeley.edu).

Schedule:

- 1) 1/18 Introduction to course– hand out syllabus, etc.
No sections this week
- 2) 1/20 Introduction to language acquisition
Hoff- Chapter 1
- 3) 1/25 Speech perception I
Hoff – Chapter 3 pp. 88-97, 103-120; Werker & Tees (1984)
- 4) 1/27 Speech perception II
- 5) 2/1 Early Production
Hoff – Chapter 3 pp. 97-103, 120-130 + summary (p. 135)
- 6) 2/3 Lexical development – The early lexicon
Hoff – Chapter 4; Choi and Gopnik (1995)
- 7) 2/8 Word learning – finding words, nature of early representations
Saffran, Aslin, and Newport (1996)
- 8) 2/10 Word learning – meaning
- 9) 2/15 Word learning – meaning
No sections this week
- 10) 2/17 **Exam 1**
- 11) 2/22 Syntax – from 1 to 2 word speech
Hoff Chapter 5 pp. 182-197; Bloom (1978)
- 12) 2/24 Syntax – beyond 2 word speech
Hoff Chapter 5 pp. 219-236
- 13) 3/1 Later acquisition (Syntax)
Hoff Chapter 5 pp. 201-204
- 14) 3/3 Morphology - English
Hoff Chapter 5 pp. 197-201; Berko (1958)
- 15) 3/8 Morphology – other languages
- 16) 3/10 Theories of acquisition (cont.)
Hoff Chapter 5 pp. 219-236

- 17) 3/15 Input - motherese
Masataka (1996)
- 18) 3/17 Film
- 19) 3/22 No Class (Spring Recess)
- 20) 3/24 No Class (Spring Recess)
- 21) 3/29 **Exam 2**
- 22) 3/31 Pragmatics & Discourse
Hoff Chapter 6 pp. 241-277
- 23) 4/5 Register & Dialect
Hoff Chapter 6 pp. 278-390; Sachs and Devin (1976)
- 24) 4/7 Bilingual acquisition
Hoff Chapter 7 pp. 366-385
- 25) 4/12 Second language acquisition/Critical periods
Hoff Chapter 2 pp. 59-68; Johnson and Newport (1989)
- 26) 4/14 Brain and language
Hoff Chapter 2 pp.41-58
- 27) 4/19 Acquisition in atypical populations
Hoff Chapter 7
- 28) 4/21 Acquisition in unusual circumstances - abnormal input
Singleton & Newport (2004)
- 29) 4/26 Acquisition in unusual circumstances, cont. – no input
Goldin-Meadow & Feldman (1975)
- 30) 4/28 Genie movie
Curtiss (1976) (No summary required)
- 31) 5/3 Learning to read
Hoff Chapter 9 pp. 390-406
- 32) 5/5 Language trained animals
Hoff Chapter 2 pp. 70-82
Assignment Due

- Berko J. (1961). The child's learning of English morphology. In S. Saporta (Ed.) *Psycholinguistics: A book of readings* (pp. 359-375). New York: Holt, Rinehart and Winston.
- Bloom, L. (1978). Developmental change in the use of single-word utterances. In L. Bloom (Ed.) *Readings in language development* (pp. 161-165). New York: John Wiley & Sons.
- Choi, S. & Gopnik, A. (1995). Early Acquisition of Verbs in Korean: A Cross-Linguistic Study. *Journal of Child Language*, 22(3), 497-529
- Curtiss, S. (1976). *Genie: A psycholinguistic study of a modern-day "wild child."* (Chapter 9 – Syntax, morphology, semantics: Production, pp. 143-181 only). New York: Academic Press.
- Goldin-Meadow, S., & Feldman, H. (1975). The creation of a communication system: A study of deaf children of hearing parents. *Sign Language Studies*, 8, 225-234.
- Johnson, J., & Newport, E. L. (1989). Critical period effects in second-language learning: The influence of maturational state on the acquisition of English as a second language. *Cognitive Psychology*, 21, 60-99.
- Masataka, N. (1998). Perception of Motherese in Japanese Sign Language by 6-month-old hearing infants. *Developmental Psychology*, 43(2), 241-246.
- Sachs, J., & Devin, J. (1976). Young children's use of age-appropriate speech styles in social interaction and role-playing. *Journal of Child Language*, 3, 81-98.
- Saffran, J. R., Aslin, R. N., Newport, E. L. (1996). Statistical learning by 8-month-old infants. *Science*, 274, 1926-1928.
- Singleton, Jenny L., & Newport, Elissa L. (2004). When learners surpass their models: The acquisition of American Sign Language from impoverished input. *Cognitive Psychology*, 49, 370-407.
- Werker, J. F., & Tees, R. C. (1984). Cross-language speech perception: Evidence for perceptual reorganization during the first year of life. *Infant Behavior and Development*, 7, 49-63.