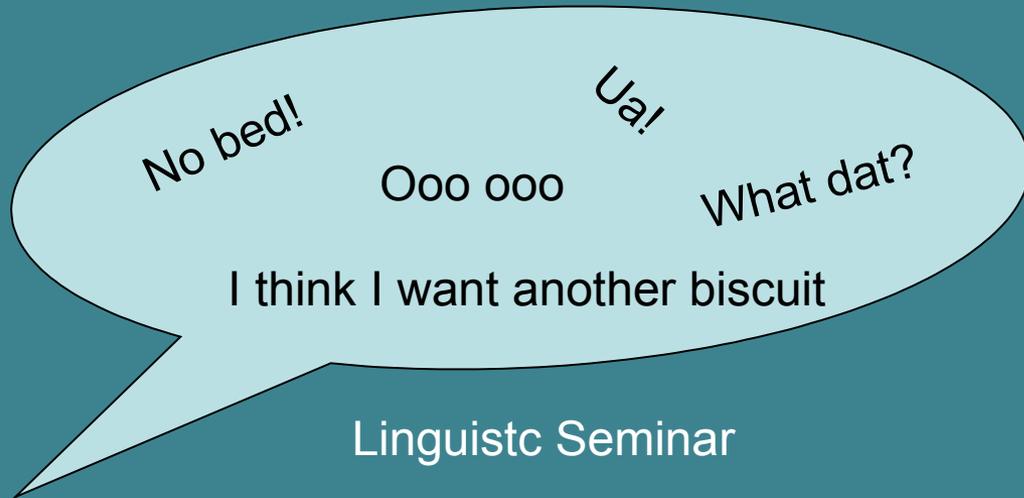


Stages of Acquisition of L1



Linguistic Seminar

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Why do we call it language acquisition?

➤ Learning

- Intentional process
- Presupposes teaching
- Teacher controls pace

➤ Acquisition

- Unconscious process
- Does not presuppose teaching
- Child controls pace



How do Nurture and Nature interact in FLA?

➤ **Nature**

- Must have poverty of stimulus to learn without “language instinct”
- All children learn a language; have language capacity
- Overgeneralizations demonstrate child is analyzing language

➤ **Nurture**

- Children cannot acquire language without social interaction/scaffolding
- Children learn the language of their environment; through parents who model social interaction
- Memorization of chunks by rote demonstrates not all info is analyzed fully



Four pillar of FLA

- **Ability**
 - Physiological
 - Cognitive
- **Interaction**
 - vocabulary, intonation, repetition, questioning
- **Motivation**
 - Internal and External
- **Data**
 - Forms
 - Meaning
 - Function



Stages of First language Acquisition

➤ Prelinguistic Sounds (*goo-goo-gaa-gaa*)

➤ Cooing Stage

➤ 0-1 month (sleep, eat, cry)

➤ 1-4 months

➤ Intonational patterns

➤ Babbling Stage

➤ 5-12 months

➤ Sounds – environment

➤ Internal behaviour – not a response

➤ 6-9 months

➤ different – select – sounds - environment



Stages of First language Acquisition

➤ One-word Stage (holophrastic)

➤ 1 year

➤ emergence of first word

➤ Sounds relate to meanings (functions)

➤ own action or desire action

➤ to convey emotions

➤ Naming function

➤ single word – a whole sentence - meaning

➤ '*Fis*' phenomenon

➤ perception of phonemes occurs earlier than the ability to produce those phonemes.



Stages of First language Acquisition

➤ Two-word Stage

➤ 2 years

- Two words, different combination of word order
- Three possible interpretations
 - Subject-verb 'Mary go.'
 - Verb-modifier 'Push truck.'
 - Possessor-possessed 'Mommy sock'
- Words lack morphological and syntactic markers – there is a word order



Stages of First language Acquisition

➤ Telegraphic Stage

➤ 2 years

➤ 2-5 words with little extra morphology

➤ Morphological overgeneralization

➤ Easier, more productive morphemes first

➤ Inflectional morphemes appear

➤ Use of simple prepositions

➤ Pronunciation is closer to adult one



Stages of First language Acquisition

➤ Telegraphic Stage, cont.

2-5 years

- More elaborate syntax
- Learning 20-30 words per day



Stages of First language Acquisition

➤ Fine-tuning

➤ 5-10 years

➤ Refining grammar, building vocabulary

➤ How children learn vocabulary:

➤ Assign word to a broad semantic category

➤ Work out distinctions among words in that category



How can you help your children develop their language skills the most?

➤ Traditional efforts:

- Flash cards
- Look it up in the dictionary

➤ Better to learn vocabulary in context:

- Reading
- Conversation
- Language learning software



Stages of language acquisition in children



Stage	Typical age	Description
Babbling	6-8 months	Repetitive patterns
One-word stage (better <i>one-morpheme</i> or <i>one-unit</i>) or holophrastic stage	9-18 months	Single open-class words or word stems
Two-word stage	18-24 months	"mini-sentences" with simple semantic relations
Telegraphic stage or early multiword stage (better <i>multi-morpheme</i>)	24-30 months	"Telegraphic" sentence structures of <i>lexical</i> rather than <i>functional</i> or <i>grammatical</i> morphemes
Later multiword stage	30+ months	<i>Grammatical</i> or <i>functional</i> structures emerge

Sources

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