

Language Acquisition

Instructor: Yi-ching Josephine Su (蘇宜青)

Office Hours: By appointment

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Course Description

This course is a comprehensive introduction to current thinking on first and second language acquisition. Topics to be covered in this course include the fundamental concerns of language acquisition research (e.g., principles, parameters, learnability problems), methodology used in the study of language acquisition, properties and important findings in previous studies of L1 and L2 morphosyntax acquisition.

Requirements

1. Class attendance and participation (10%)
2. In-class presentation (20%)
3. Reflective Notes (Comments / Questions) (20%)
4. Term paper (50%, a squib reviewing previous studies on a specific topic)

Textbooks

Guasti, Maria Teresa. (2016) *Language Acquisition: The Growth of Grammar*. (second edition). Cambridge, MA: The MIT Press.

Jegerski, Jill, & VanPatten, Bill. (2014) *Research Methods in Second Language Psycholinguistics*. New York, NY: Routledge.

Slabakova, Roumyana. (2016) *Second Language Acquisition*. Oxford University Press.

White, Lydia. (2003) *Second Language Acquisition and Universal Grammar*. Cambridge University Press.

Weekly Schedule

Week	Topic	Reading
1	Introduction	
2	Basic concepts	Guasti (2016) ch.1 White (2003) ch. 1
3	Research Methods I Self-paced reading & Self-paced listening	Jegerski & VanPatten (2014)
4	Research Methods II Eye-tracking with text & Visual world eye-tracking	Jegerski & VanPatten (2014)

5	Research Methods III Event-related potentials (ERPs) & Functional magnetic resonance imaging (fMRI)	Jegerski & VanPatten (2014)
6	Research Methods IV Translation recognition tasks & Cross- modal priming tasks	Jegerski & VanPatten (2014) Slabakova (2016) ch 12
7	The computational system: The emergence of syntax in the verbal domain	Guasti (2016) ch. 4
8	The conceptual-intentional interface: Nominal and pronominal interpretation	Guasti (2016) ch. 8
9	Principles of Universal Grammar in L2 acquisition	White (2003) ch. 2
10	The initial state in L2 acquisition	White (2003) ch. 3
11	L2 Acquisition of (functional) morphology	Slabakova (2016) ch 7, 8
12	L2 Acquisition of the syntax-semantics- discourse-pragmatics interface	Slabakova (2016) ch 10, 11
13	Bilingualism and early L2	Guasti (2016) ch 11
14	Student Presentation	
15	Student Presentation	
16	Final project presentation	

Journals

(*more theory-oriented) Language Acquisition; Second Language Research

(less theory-oriented) Journal of Child Language; First Language; Studies in Second Language Acquisition; Bilingualism: Language and Cognition; International Journal of Bilingualism; the Language Learning Journal; Applied Psycholinguistics; Journal of Psycholinguistic Research