

3 theories of language acquisition

3 Theories of Language Acquisition: A Comprehensive Guide

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Summary: This guide explores three prominent theories of language acquisition: behaviorism, nativism (innateness), and interactionism. Each theory's core tenets, supporting evidence, limitations, and practical implications for language teaching and learning are examined. The guide highlights best practices based on the strengths of each theory and cautions against common pitfalls associated with their misinterpretations or oversimplifications. Ultimately, it argues for a more integrated approach, acknowledging the interplay between innate abilities, environmental input, and cognitive development in the complex process of language acquisition.

1. Introduction: Understanding the Puzzle of Language Acquisition

The ability to acquire language is a uniquely human trait, a complex process that has fascinated researchers for decades. How do children, seemingly effortlessly, master the intricate rules of their native language? This question has spurred the development of various theories attempting to explain this remarkable feat. This guide will delve into three influential theories of language acquisition: behaviorism, nativism (also known as the innatist theory), and interactionism. Understanding these "3 theories of language acquisition" is crucial for educators, parents, and anyone interested in the fascinating world of language development.

2. Behaviorism: Learning Through Imitation and

Reinforcement

Behaviorist theories, heavily influenced by the work of B.F. Skinner, posit that language acquisition is a learned behavior shaped by environmental stimuli. According to this perspective, children learn language through imitation, repetition, and reinforcement. Positive reinforcement, such as praise or encouragement, strengthens desired language behaviors, while negative reinforcement, like correction, weakens undesirable ones.

Best Practices: Behaviorist principles can be valuable in language instruction, particularly for vocabulary acquisition and pronunciation. Providing ample opportunities for repetition, modeling correct language use, and offering positive feedback can enhance learning.

Common Pitfalls: Behaviorism struggles to fully explain the creativity and novelty inherent in children's language. Children often produce sentences they've never heard before, demonstrating a capacity for linguistic generalization that goes beyond simple imitation. Overreliance on correction can also be detrimental, potentially inhibiting a child's willingness to experiment with language.

3. Nativism (Innatist Theory): The Innate Language Faculty

In contrast to behaviorism, nativism, championed by linguists like Noam Chomsky, proposes that humans possess an innate capacity for language. Chomsky's concept of the Language Acquisition Device (LAD) suggests that children are born with a pre-programmed understanding of universal grammar, a set of underlying principles common to all languages. This innate knowledge allows children to readily acquire the specific grammar of their native language, even with limited exposure.

Best Practices: Nativist insights highlight the importance of providing children with rich linguistic environments that allow them to explore and discover the underlying structure of their language. Early exposure to diverse linguistic input is crucial.

Common Pitfalls: Critics argue that nativism underestimates the role of environmental factors. While innate abilities are undoubtedly important, the specific language a child acquires is heavily influenced by their interactions with caregivers and the linguistic community. The LAD concept, though influential, remains largely theoretical and difficult to empirically test.

4. Interactionism: The Interplay of Nature and Nurture

Interactionist theories, such as those proposed by Lev Vygotsky and Jerome Bruner, emphasize the crucial role of social interaction in language acquisition. These theories integrate aspects of both behaviorism and nativism, arguing that language development arises from the interplay between innate predispositions and environmental input. Interactionists highlight the importance of scaffolding, where more knowledgeable individuals provide support and guidance to learners, allowing them to reach higher levels of linguistic competence.

Best Practices: Interactionist principles underscore the significance of creating opportunities for meaningful communication and social interaction. Engage children in conversations, read to them, and provide them with opportunities to interact with others who speak the language.

Common Pitfalls: Interactionism can be challenging to empirically test due to the complexity of the interplay between various factors. Precisely quantifying the relative contributions of nature and nurture remains a significant challenge.

5. Comparing and Contrasting the 3 Theories of Language Acquisition

While these "3 theories of language acquisition" offer distinct perspectives, they are not mutually exclusive. A comprehensive understanding of language acquisition requires integrating insights from each theory. Behaviorism highlights the importance of environmental input and learning mechanisms, while nativism emphasizes the role of innate abilities. Interactionism provides a framework for understanding how these two factors interact to shape language development.

6. Implications for Language Teaching and Learning

Understanding the "3 theories of language acquisition" has significant implications for language teaching methodologies. Effective language instruction should incorporate elements from all three perspectives, providing learners with ample opportunities for interaction, repetition, and exposure to rich linguistic input, while also acknowledging the crucial role of innate abilities.

7. Conclusion

The quest to understand how humans acquire language remains an ongoing endeavor. While each of the "3 theories of language acquisition"—behaviorism, nativism, and interactionism—offers valuable insights, a holistic approach that recognizes the complex interplay of biological predispositions, environmental factors, and social interaction provides the most comprehensive understanding of this remarkable human capacity. Further research continues to refine our understanding, revealing the intricate mechanisms underlying this fundamental aspect of human cognition.

FAQs

1. Which theory of language acquisition is the most accurate? No single theory fully explains language acquisition. A combination of nativism, behaviorism, and interactionism offers the most comprehensive understanding.

1. What is the role of the environment in language acquisition? The environment plays a crucial role, providing the input necessary for language development, particularly in interactionist and behaviorist

perspectives.

1. How important is innate ability in language acquisition? Innate abilities are crucial, providing the foundation for language learning, as highlighted in the nativist perspective.
1. Can language acquisition be impaired? Yes, various factors, including neurological conditions and insufficient environmental input, can impair language acquisition.
1. What is the critical period for language acquisition? While there's no precise cutoff, early childhood is considered the most crucial period for fluent language acquisition.
1. How does bilingualism affect language acquisition? Bilingual children might show slightly slower initial progress in each language, but ultimately demonstrate comparable or even enhanced cognitive abilities.
1. What are some common challenges in second language acquisition? Challenges include interference from the first language, limited exposure, and lack of motivation.
1. How can parents support language acquisition in their children? Reading to children, engaging in conversations, and providing a stimulating environment are crucial.
1. What are some practical applications of understanding these theories in education? Tailoring teaching methods to address individual learning styles, providing diverse input, and fostering interactive learning environments.

Related Articles:

1. "The Language Instinct" by Steven Pinker: Explores the biological basis of language and supports the nativist perspective.

1. "Beyond Language: Cognitive Science and the Origin of the Human Mind" by George Lakoff: Investigates the cognitive foundations of language, drawing on insights from both nativism and interactionism.
1. "Language Acquisition: The State of the Art" edited by Melissa Bowerman and Stephen C. Levinson: A collection of essays by leading researchers, providing a comprehensive overview of the field.
1. "The Child's Discovery of Language" by Jean Piaget: Explores the cognitive development of language from a constructivist perspective, aligning with interactionist ideas.
1. "Verbal Behavior" by B.F. Skinner: A foundational text in behaviorism, outlining the principles of operant conditioning as applied to language learning.
1. "Syntactic Structures" by Noam Chomsky: A seminal work in linguistics, introducing the concept of generative grammar and supporting the nativist perspective.
1. "Scaffolding Language Acquisition" by Annemarie Palincsar: Focuses on the interactionist approach and the importance of social interaction in language learning.
1. "Second Language Acquisition" by Rod Ellis: A comprehensive overview of theories and research on second language learning.
1. "Cognitive Linguistics: An Introduction" by Ronald W. Langacker: Explores the cognitive underpinnings of language, offering insights relevant to interactionist and nativist viewpoints.

3 theories of language acquisition: Theories in Second Language Acquisition Bill VanPatten, Gregory D. Keating, Stefanie Wulff, 2020-02-24 This third edition of the best-selling Theories in Second Language Acquisition surveys the major theories currently used in second language acquisition (SLA) research, serving as an ideal introductory text for undergraduate and

graduate students in SLA and language teaching. Designed to provide a consistent and coherent presentation for those seeking a basic understanding of the theories that underlie contemporary SLA research, each chapter focuses on a single theory. Chapters are written by leading scholars in the field and incorporate a basic foundational description of the theory, relevant data or research models used with this theory, common misunderstandings, and a sample study from the field to show the theory in practice. New to this edition is a chapter addressing the relationship between theories and L2 teaching, as well as refreshed coverage of all theories throughout the book. A key work in the study of second language acquisition, this volume will be useful to students of linguistics, language and language teaching, and to researchers as a guide to theoretical work outside their respective domains.

3 theories of language acquisition: The Basic Theories of Language Acquisition Lena Linden, 2008 Seminar paper from the year 2007 in the subject English Language and Literature Studies - Linguistics, grade: 1,3, University of Cologne (Englisches Seminar), course: HS First Language Acquisition, 12 entries in the bibliography, language: English, abstract: Most of the concepts and theories explaining how native languages are acquired go back to three different approaches put forward by Burrhus Federic Skinner, Noam Chomsky and Jean Piaget, either by using their ideas as a starting point or by rejecting them and formulating a new or altered Hypothesis. This paper will try to present those three basic theories, also taking into account the contexts out of which they emerged, as to fully understand linguistic, like any other scientific, views and theories, they have always to be evaluated with respect to the scientific and cultural background they appeared in. First it will try to show how Skinners concept of 'verbal behavior' with respect to language acquisition emerged in the development of behaviouristic theories. This will be followed by Chomsky's criticism of Skinner's ideas, leading to his own theory of language and language acquisition, which will be presented. Jean Piaget offers a cognitive approach to the question. His view will be described before comparing nativist and cognitivist ideas, concerning the points whether or not innate structures exist and in how far linguistic and cognitive development are interrelated, taking the opposed views of Piaget and Chomsky, the forerunners of many other important linguists, as an example.

3 theories of language acquisition: Third language acquisition Camilla Bardel, Laura Sánchez, This book deals with the phenomenon of third language (L3) acquisition. As a research field, L3 acquisition is established as a branch of multilingualism that is concerned with how multilinguals learn additional languages and the role that their multilingual background plays in the process of language learning. The volume points out some current directions in this particular research area with a number of studies that reveal the complexity of multilingual language learning and its typical variation and dynamics. The eight studies gathered in the book represent a wide range of theoretical positions and offer empirical evidence from learners belonging to different age groups, and with varying levels of proficiency in the target language, as well as in other non-native languages belonging to the learner's repertoire. Diverse linguistic phenomena and language combinations are viewed from a perspective where all previously acquired languages have a potential role to play in the process of learning a new language. In the six empirical studies, contexts of language learning in school or at university level constitute the main outlet for data collection. These studies involve several language backgrounds and language combinations and focus on various linguistic features. The specific target languages in the empirical studies are English, French and Italian. The volume also includes two theoretical chapters. The first one conceptualizes and describes the different types of multilingual language learning investigated in the volume: i) third or additional language learning by learners who are bilinguals from an early age, and ii) third or additional language learning by people who have previous experience of one or more non-native languages learned after the critical period. In particular, issues related to the roles played by age and proficiency in multilingual acquisition are discussed. The other theoretical chapter conceptualizes the grammatical category of aspect, reviewing previous studies on second and third language acquisition of aspect. Different models for L3 learning and their relevance and implications for representations of aspect and for potential differences in the processing of second and third

language acquisition are also examined in this chapter. As a whole, the book presents current research into third or additional language learning by young learners or adults, considering some of the most important factors for the complex process of multilingual language learning: the age of onset of the additional language and that of previously acquired languages, social and affective factors, instruction, language proficiency and literacy, the typology of the background languages and the role they play in shaping syntax, lexicon, and other components of a L3. The idea for this book emanates from the symposium Multilingualism, language proficiency and age, organized by Camilla Bardel and Laura Sánchez at Stockholm University, Department of Language Education, in December 2016.

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3 theories of language acquisition: Constructing a Language Michael TOMASELLO, 2009-06-30 In this groundbreaking book, Tomasello presents a comprehensive usage-based theory of language acquisition. Drawing together a vast body of empirical research in cognitive science, linguistics, and developmental psychology, Tomasello demonstrates that we don't need a self-contained language instinct to explain how children learn language. Their linguistic ability is interwoven with other cognitive abilities.

3 theories of language acquisition: Linguistic Theory in Second Language Acquisition S. Flynn, W. O'Neil, 2012-12-06 Suzanne Flynn and Wayne O'Neil Massachusetts Institute of Technology I. INTRODUCTION The theory of Universal Grammar (UG) as explicated e. g. in Chomsky, 1986, has led to explosive developments in the study of natural language as well as to significant advances in the study of first language (L1) acquisition. Most recently, the theory of UG has led to important theoretical and empirical advances in the field of adult second language (L2) acquisition as well. The principle impetus for this development can be traced to the work in linguistics which shifted the study from behavior or the products of behavior to states of the mind/brain that enter into behavior (Chomsky, 1986:3). Grammars within this framework are conceived of as theoretical accounts of the state of the mind/brain of the person who knows a particular language (Chomsky, 1986:3). Research within fields of language acquisition seeks to isolate and specify the properties of the underlying competence necessary for language learning. Full development of a theory of UG demands study and understanding of the nature of both the formal properties of language and of the language acquisition process itself. However, while there is a tradition of debate and dialogue established between theoretical linguistics and L1 acquisition research, relatively few connections have been made between linguistic theory and L2 acquisition research.

3 theories of language acquisition: The Cambridge Handbook of Second Language Acquisition Julia Herschensohn, Martha Young-Scholten, 2018-09-06 What is language and how can we investigate its acquisition by children or adults? What perspectives exist from which to view acquisition? What internal constraints and external factors shape acquisition? What are the properties of interlanguage systems? This comprehensive 31-chapter handbook is an authoritative survey of second language acquisition (SLA). Its multi-perspective synopsis on recent developments in SLA research provides significant contributions by established experts and widely recognized younger talent. It covers cutting edge and emerging areas of enquiry not treated elsewhere in a single handbook, including third language acquisition, electronic communication, incomplete first language acquisition, alphabetic literacy and SLA, affect and the brain, discourse and identity. Written to be accessible to newcomers as well as experienced scholars of SLA, the Handbook is organised into six thematic sections, each with an editor-written introduction.

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VanPatten, Jessica Williams, 2014-12-22 The second edition of *Theories in Second Language Acquisition* seeks to build on the strengths of the first edition by surveying the major theories currently used in second language acquisition research. This volume is an ideal introductory text for undergraduate and graduate students in SLA and language teaching. Each chapter focuses on a single theory, written by a leading scholar in the field in an easy-to-follow style – a basic foundational description of the theory, relevant data or research models used with this theory, common misunderstandings, and a sample study from the field to show the theory in practice. This text is designed to provide a consistent and coherent presentation for those new to the field who seek basic understanding of theories that underlie contemporary SLA research. Researchers will also find the book useful as a quick guide to theoretical work outside their respective domains.

3 theories of language acquisition: Crosscurrents in Second Language Acquisition and Linguistic Theories Thom Huebner, Charles A. Ferguson, 1991-01-01 The term “crosscurrent” is defined as “a current flowing counter to another.” This volume represents crosscurrents in second language acquisition and linguistic theory in several respects. First, although the main currents running between linguistics and second language acquisition have traditionally flowed from theory to application, equally important contributions can be made in the other direction as well. Second, although there is a strong tendency in the field of linguistics to see “theorists” working within formal models of syntax, SLA research can contribute to linguistic theory more broadly defined to include various functional as well as formal models of syntax, theories of phonology, variationist theories of sociolinguistics, etc. These assumptions formed the basis for a conference held at Stanford University during the Linguistic Institute there in the summer of 1987. The conference was organized to update the relation between second language acquisition and linguistic theory. This book contains a selection of (mostly revised and updated) papers of this conference and two newly written papers.

3 theories of language acquisition: Current Perspectives on Child Language Acquisition Caroline F. Rowland, Anna L. Theakston, Ben Ambridge, Katherine E. Twomey, 2020-09-15 In recent years the field has seen an increasing realisation that the full complexity of language acquisition demands theories that (a) explain how children integrate information from multiple sources in the environment, (b) build linguistic representations at a number of different levels, and (c) learn how to combine these representations in order to communicate effectively. These new findings have stimulated new theoretical perspectives that are more centered on explaining learning as a complex dynamic interaction between the child and her environment. This book is the first attempt to bring some of these new perspectives together in one place. It is a collection of essays written by a group of researchers who all take an approach centered on child-environment interaction, and all of whom have been influenced by the work of Elena Lieven, to whom this collection is dedicated.

3 theories of language acquisition: The Way of the Linguist Steve Kaufmann, 2005-11 *The Way of The Linguist, A language learning odyssey.* It is now a cliché that the world is a smaller place. We think nothing of jumping on a plane to travel to another country or continent. The most exotic locations are now destinations for mass tourism. Small business people are dealing across frontiers and language barriers like never before. The Internet brings different languages and cultures to our finger-tips. English, the hybrid language of an island at the western extremity of Europe seems to have an unrivalled position as an international medium of communication. But historically periods of cultural and economic domination have never lasted forever. Do we not lose something by relying on the wide spread use of English rather than discovering other languages and cultures? As citizens of this shrunken world, would we not be better off if we were able to speak a few languages other than our own? The answer is obviously yes. Certainly Steve Kaufmann thinks so, and in his busy life as a diplomat and businessman he managed to learn to speak nine languages fluently and observe first hand some of the dominant cultures of Europe and Asia. Why do not more people do the same? In his book *The Way of The Linguist, A language learning odyssey*, Steve offers some answers. Steve feels anyone can learn a language if they want to. He points out some of the obstacles that hold people back. Drawing on his adventures in Europe and Asia, as a student and

businessman, he describes the rewards that come from knowing languages. He relates his evolution as a language learner, abroad and back in his native Canada and explains the kind of attitude that will enable others to achieve second language fluency. Many people have taken on the challenge of language learning but have been frustrated by their lack of success. This book offers detailed advice on the kind of study practices that will achieve language breakthroughs. Steve has developed a language learning system available online at: www.thelinguist.com.

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3 theories of language acquisition: The Natural Approach Stephen D. Krashen, Tracy D. Terrell, 1990-04-01

3 theories of language acquisition: Multilingualism and third language acquisition Jorge Pinto, Nélia Alexandre, 2021 The purpose of this book is to present recent studies in the field of multilingualism and L3, bringing together contributions from an international group of specialists from Austria, Canada, Germany, Portugal, Spain, Switzerland, Turkey, and United States. The main focuses of the articles are three: language acquisition, language learning and teaching. A collection of theoretical and empirical articles from scholars of multilingualism and language acquisition makes the book a significant resource as the papers present a wide perspective from main theories to current issues, reflecting new trends in the field. The authors focus on the heterogeneity and complexity that characterize third language acquisition, multilingual learning and teaching. As the issues addressed in this book intersect, it represents an asset and therefore the texts will be of great relevance for the scientific community. Part I presents different topics of L3 acquisition, such as syntax, phonology, working memory and selective attention, and lexicon. Part II comprises texts that show how the research on language acquisition informs pedagogical issues. For instance, the role of the knowledge of previous languages in the teaching of L3, the attitudes of multilingual teachers to plurilingual approaches, and the benefits of crosslinguistic pedagogy versus classroom monolingual bias. In sequence, Part III consists of texts on individual learning strategies, such as motivation and attitudes, crosslinguistic awareness, and students' perceptions about teachers' "plurilingual nonnativism". All these chapters include several different languages in contact in an acquisition/learning context: Basque, English, French, German, Italian, Ladin, Portuguese, Russian, Spanish, and Turkish.

3 theories of language acquisition: Third Language Acquisition and Linguistic Transfer Jason Rothman, Jorge González Alonso, Eloi Puig-Mayenco, 2019-10-10 Provides a comprehensive overview of third language acquisition (additive multilingualism) in adulthood, an increasingly important subfield of language acquisition.

3 theories of language acquisition: Second Language Learning Theories Rosamond Mitchell, Florence Myles, Emma Marsden, 2013-08-21 Second Language Learning Theories is a clear and concise overview of the field of second language acquisition (SLA) theories. Written by a team of leading academics working in different SLA specialisms, this book provides expert analysis of the main theories from multiple perspectives to offer a broad and balanced introduction to the topic. The book covers all the main theoretical perspectives currently active in the SLA field and sets them in a broader perspective per chapter, e.g. linguistic, cognitive or sociolinguistic. Each chapter examines how various theories view language, the learner, and the acquisition process. Summaries of key studies and examples of data relating to a variety of languages illustrate the different theoretical perspectives. Each chapter concludes with an evaluative summary of the theories discussed. This

third edition has been thoroughly updated to reflect the very latest research in the field of SLA. Key features include: a fully re-worked chapter on cognitive models of language and language learning a new chapter on information processing, including the roles of different types of memory and knowledge in language learning the addition of a glossary of key linguistic terms to help the non-specialist a new timeline of second language learning theory development This third edition takes account of the significant developments that have taken place in the field in recent years. Highly active domains in which theoretical and methodological advances have been made are treated in more depth to ensure that this new edition of Second Language Learning Theories remains as fresh and relevant as ever.

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Pierce, 2012-12-06 The theory of language acquisition is a young but increasingly active field. Language Acquisition and Syntactic Theory presents one of the first detailed studies of comparative syntax acquisition. It is informed by the view that linguists and acquisitionists are essentially working on the same problem, that of explaining grammar learnability. The author takes cross-linguistic data from child language as evidence for recent proposals in syntactic theory. Developments in the structure of children's sentences during the first few years of life are traced to changes in the setting of specific grammatical parameters. Some surprising differences between the early child grammars of French and English are uncovered, differences that can only be explained on the basis of subtle distinctions in inflectional structure. This motivates the author's claim that functional or nonthematic categories are represented in the grammars of very young children. The book also explores the relationship between acquisition and diachronic change in French and English. It is argued that findings in acquisition, when viewed from a parameter setting perspective, provide answers to important questions arising in the study of language change. The book promises to be of interest to all those involved in the formal, psychological or historical study of linguistic knowledge.

3 theories of language acquisition: Innovative Research and Practices in Second Language Acquisition and Bilingualism John W. Schwieter, 2013-08-15 This volume brings together theoretical perspectives and empirical studies in second language (L2) acquisition and bilingualism and discusses their implications for L2 pedagogy. The book is organized into three sections that focus on prominent linguistic and cognitive theories and together provide a compelling set of state-of-the-art works. Part I consists of studies that give rise to innovative applications for second language teaching and learning and Part II discusses how findings from cognitive research can inform practices for L2 teaching and learning. Following these two sections, Part III provides a summative commentary of the theories explored in the volume along with suggestions for future research directions. The book is intended to act as a valuable reference for scholars, applied linguists, specialists in pedagogy, language educators, and anyone wishing to gain an overview of current issues in SLA and bilingualism.

3 theories of language acquisition: Language and Concept Acquisition from Infancy Through Childhood Jane B. Childers, 2020-02-03 This book examines the role of experience-based learning on children's acquisition of language and concepts. It reviews, compares, and contrasts accounts of how the opportunity to recognize and generalize patterns influences learning. The book offers the first systematic integration of three highly influential research traditions in the domains of language and concept acquisition: Statistical Learning, Structural Alignment, and the Bayesian learning perspective. Chapters examine the parameters that constrain learning, address conditions that optimize learning, and offer explanations for cases in which implicit exemplar-based learning fails to occur. By exploring both the benefits and challenges children face as they learn from multiple examples, the book offers insight on how to better able to understand children's early unsupervised learning about language and concepts. Topics featured in this book include: Competing models of statistical learning and how learning might be constrained by infants' developing cognitive abilities. How experience with multiple exemplars helps infants understand space and other relations. The emergence of category-based inductive reasoning during infancy and

early childhood. How children learn individual verbs and the verb system over time. How statistical learning leads to aggregation and abstraction in word learning. Mechanisms for evaluating others' reliability as sources of knowledge when learning new words. The Search for Invariance (SI) hypothesis and its role in facilitating causal learning. Language and Concept Acquisition from Infancy Through Childhood is an essential resource for researchers, clinicians and related professionals, and graduate students in infancy and early child development, applied linguistics, language education, child, school, and developmental psychology and related mental health and education services.

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3 theories of language acquisition: Principles and Practice in Second Language Acquisition Stephen D. Krashen, 1987

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3 theories of language acquisition: Language Processing and Language Acquisition Lyn Frazier, J. de Villiers, 1990-09-30 Studies of language acquisition have largely ignored processing principles and mechanisms. Not surprisingly, questions concerning the analysis of an informative linguistic input - the potential evidence for grammatical parameter setting - have also been ignored. Especially in linguistic approaches to language acquisition, the role of language processing has not been prominent. With few exceptions (e. g. Goodluck and Tavakolian, 1982; Pinker, 1984) discussions of language performance tend to arise only when experimental debris, the artifact of some experiment, needs to be cleared away. Consequently, language processing has been viewed as a collection of rather uninteresting performance factors obscuring the true object of interest, namely, grammar acquisition. On those occasions when parsing strategies have been incorporated into accounts of language development, they have often been discussed as vague preferences, not open to rigorous analysis. In principle, however, theories of language comprehension can and should be subjected to the same criteria of explicitness and explanatoriness as other theories, e. g. , theories of grammar. Thus their peripheral role in accounts of language development may reflect accidental factors, rather than any inherent fuzziness or irrelevance to the language acquisition problem. It seems probable that an explicit model of the way(s) processing routines are applied in acquisition would help solve some central problems of grammar acquisition, since these routines regulate the application of grammatical knowledge to novel inputs.

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Acquisition María del Pilar García Mayo, María Junkal Gutierrez Mangado, María Martínez Adrián, 2013-02-19 Second language acquisition (SLA) is a field of inquiry that has increased in importance since the 1960s. Currently, researchers adopt multiple perspectives in the analysis of learner language, all of them providing different but complementary answers to the understanding of oral and written data produced by young and older learners in different settings. The main goal of this volume is to provide the reader with updated reviews of the major contemporary approaches to SLA, the research carried out within them and, wherever appropriate, the implications and/or applications for theory, research and pedagogy that might derive from the available empirical evidence. The book is intended for SLA researchers as well as for graduate (MA, Ph.D.) students in SLA research, applied linguistics and linguistics, as the different chapters will be a guide in their research within the approaches presented. The volume will also be of interest to professionals from other fields interested in the SLA process and the different explanations that have been put forward to account for it.

3 theories of language acquisition: *The Gettysburg Address* Abraham Lincoln, 2022-11-29

The complete text of one of the most important speeches in American history, delivered by President Abraham Lincoln during the Civil War. On November 19, 1863, Abraham Lincoln arrived at the battlefield near Gettysburg, Pennsylvania, to remember not only the grim bloodshed that had just occurred there, but also to remember the American ideals that were being put to the ultimate test by the Civil War. A rousing appeal to the nation's better angels, The Gettysburg Address remains an inspiring vision of the United States as a country "conceived in Liberty, and dedicated to the proposition that all men are created equal."

3 theories of language acquisition: *Encyclopedia of Child Behavior and Development*

Sam Goldstein, Jack A. Naglieri, 2010-11-23 This reference work breaks new ground as an electronic resource. Utterly comprehensive, it serves as a repository of knowledge in the field as well as a frequently updated conduit of new material long before it finds its way into standard textbooks.

3 theories of language acquisition: *Encyclopedia of the Sciences of Learning* Norbert M.

Seel, 2011-10-05 Over the past century, educational psychologists and researchers have posited many theories to explain how individuals learn, i.e. how they acquire, organize and deploy knowledge and skills. The 20th century can be considered the century of psychology on learning and related fields of interest (such as motivation, cognition, metacognition etc.) and it is fascinating to see the various mainstreams of learning, remembered and forgotten over the 20th century and note that basic assumptions of early theories survived several paradigm shifts of psychology and epistemology. Beyond folk psychology and its naïve theories of learning, psychological learning theories can be grouped into some basic categories, such as behaviorist learning theories, connectionist learning theories, cognitive learning theories, constructivist learning theories, and social learning theories. Learning theories are not limited to psychology and related fields of interest but rather we can find the topic of learning in various disciplines, such as philosophy and epistemology, education, information science, biology, and – as a result of the emergence of computer technologies – especially also in the field of computer sciences and artificial intelligence. As a consequence, machine learning struck a chord in the 1980s and became an important field of the learning sciences in general. As the learning sciences became more specialized and complex, the various fields of interest were widely spread and separated from each other; as a consequence, even presently, there is no comprehensive overview of the sciences of learning or the central theoretical concepts and vocabulary on which researchers rely. The *Encyclopedia of the Sciences of Learning* provides an up-to-date, broad and authoritative coverage of the specific terms mostly used in the sciences of learning and its related fields, including relevant areas of instruction, pedagogy, cognitive sciences, and especially machine learning and knowledge engineering. This modern compendium will be an indispensable source of information for scientists, educators, engineers, and technical staff active in all fields of learning. More specifically, the *Encyclopedia* provides fast access to the most relevant theoretical terms provides up-to-date, broad and authoritative coverage of the

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3 theories of language acquisition: *Complexity Theory and Language Development* Lourdes Ortega, ZhaoHong Han, 2017-11-15 This volume is both a state-of-the-art display of current thinking on second language development as a complex system. It is also a tribute to Diane Larsen-Freeman for her decades of intellectual leadership in the academic disciplines of applied linguistics and second language acquisition. The chapters therein range from theoretical expositions to methodological analyses, pedagogical proposals, and conceptual frameworks for future research. In a balanced and in-depth manner, the authors provide a comprehensive and interdisciplinary understanding of second language development, with a wealth of insights that promise to break the status-quo of current research and take it to exciting new territory. The book will appeal to both seasoned and novice researchers in applied linguistics, second language acquisition, bilingualism, cognitive psychology, and education, as well as to practitioners in second or foreign language teaching of any language.

3 theories of language acquisition: *Input and Interaction in Language Acquisition* Clare Gallaway, Brian J. Richards, 1994-04-14 Language addressed to children, or 'Baby Talk', became the subject of research interest thirty years ago. Since then, the linguistic environment of infants and toddlers has been widely studied. *Input and Interaction in Language Acquisition* is an up-to-date statement of the facts and controversies surrounding 'Baby Talk', its nature and likely effects. With contributions from leading linguists and psychologists, it explores language acquisition in different cultures and family contexts, in typical and atypical learners, and in second and foreign language learners. It is designed as a sequel to the now famous *Talking to Children*, edited by Catherine Snow and Charles Ferguson, and Professor Snow here provides an introduction, comparing issues of importance in the field today with the previous concerns of researchers.

3 theories of language acquisition: *Sources of Variation in First Language Acquisition* Maya Hickmann, Edy Veneziano, Harriet Jisa, 2018-02-22 Developmental research has long focused on regularities in language acquisition, minimizing factors that might be responsible for variation. Although researchers are now increasingly concerned with one or another of these factors, this volume brings together research on three different sources of variation: language-specific properties, the nature of the input to children across contexts, and several aspects of the learners themselves. Chapters explore these sources of variation within an interdisciplinary and comparative approach allying theories and methodologies stemming from linguistics, psycholinguistics, developmental psychology, and neuroscience. The comparative perspective involves different languages, contexts of use, types of learners (first/second language acquisition, monolingual/bilingual learners, autism, language impairment), as well as vocal and visuo-gestural communicative modalities (co-verbal gestures, sign language acquisition). The volume points to the need to enhance interdisciplinary research using complementary methodologies to further examine sources of variation and to integrate variation into a more general developmental theory.

3 theories of language acquisition: *Language Acquisition and Conceptual Development* Melissa Bowerman, Stephen C. Levinson, 2001-01-11 Recent years have seen a revolution in our knowledge of how children learn to think and speak. In this volume, leading scholars from these rapidly evolving fields of research examine the relationship between child language acquisition and cognitive development. At first sight, advances in the two areas seem to have moved in opposing directions: the study of language acquisition has been especially concerned with diversity, explaining how children learn languages of widely different types, while the study of cognitive development has focused on uniformity, clarifying how children build on fundamental, presumably universal concepts. This book brings these two vital strands of investigation into close dialogue,

suggesting a synthesis in which the process of language acquisition may interact with early cognitive development. It provides empirical contributions based on a variety of languages, populations and ages, and theoretical discussions that cut across the disciplines of psychology, linguistics and anthropology.

3 theories of language acquisition: The Cambridge Handbook of Learner Corpus Research Sylviane Granger, Gaëtanelle Gilquin, Fanny Meunier, 2015-10-01 The origins of learner corpus research go back to the late 1980s when large electronic collections of written or spoken data started to be collected from foreign/second language learners, with a view to advancing our understanding of the mechanisms of second language acquisition and developing tailor-made pedagogical tools. Engaging with the interdisciplinary nature of this fast-growing field, The Cambridge Handbook of Learner Corpus Research explores the diverse and extensive applications of learner corpora, with 27 chapters written by internationally renowned experts. This comprehensive work is a vital resource for students, teachers and researchers, offering fresh perspectives and a unique overview of the field. With representative studies in each chapter which provide an essential guide on how to conduct learner corpus research in a wide range of areas, this work is a cutting-edge account of learner corpus collection, annotation, methodology, theory, analysis and applications.

3 theories of language acquisition: *Breaking the Language Barrier* George Hollich, Kathy Hirsh-Pasek, Roberta Golinkoff, 2000-10-26 How do children learn their first words? The field of language development has been polarized by responses to this question. Explanations range from accounts that emphasize the importance of cognitive heuristics in language acquisition, to those that highlight the role of dumb attentional mechanisms in word learning. This monograph offers an alternative to these accounts. A hybrid view of word-learning, called the emergentist coalition theory, combines cognitive constraints, social-pragmatic factors, and global attentional mechanisms to arrive at a balanced account of how children construct principles of word learning. In twelve experiments, with children ranging from 12 to 25 months of age, data are described that support the emergentist coalition theory.

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3 theories of language acquisition: The Wug Test Jean Berko Gleason, 2019-12-09 The Wug Test is a picture book for children and adults that uses invented nouns, verbs, and adjectives to illuminate what children know about their own language. This book includes the original delightful Wug Test drawings and test questions created by Professor Jean Berko Gleason in 1958. The Wug Test, first given in research settings, showed that children do not learn language simply by memorizing what they hear. Instead, they learn the rules of their language so that they are able to make plurals, past tenses and other forms when presented with words they have never heard before. This book has pictures and interesting questions to share with children, along with informative notes and commentary for adults. It provides a fascinating insight into what even very young children

know about language, as well as a way to understand and observe a child's acquisition of the rules of language over time. Ages 3-7.

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