The Chinese University of Hong Kong Department of Linguistics and Modern Languages First Term of 2022-23

Course code and title

LING5103B Foundations in Language Acquisition 語言獲得基礎

Instructor and Teaching Assistant

Instructor:	Dr. Margaret Lei
Teaching Assistant:	Ms. Zhixian Huang

Lecture time and venue

Wednesdays, 11:30apm-1:15pm; G05, Hui Yeung Shing Building (HYS)

Tutorial time and venue

Wednesdays, 1:30pm-2:15pm; G05, Hui Yeung Shing Building (HYS)

Course overview

This course introduces students to major themes in language acquisition research: language as a species-specific property, the biological foundations of language acquisition, the nature and role of linguistic experience, and issues of language learnability. It highlights the major milestones in children's acquisition of semantics, syntax, morphology, and phonology. Attention will be devoted to language acquisition in different contexts, covering monolingual and bilingual first as well as second language acquisition. The course will discuss the characteristics of nativist and usage-based approaches to the study of language acquisition, and key methods used in language acquisition studies. Special reference will be made to the acquisition of Chinese (Mandarin and Cantonese).

Learning outcomes

Students are expected to achieve the following learning outcomes:

- (a) An awareness of the roles of biological factors as well as input in language acquisition;
- (b) A basic understanding of the key concepts in children's acquisition of semantics, syntax, morphology, and phonology;
- (c) An appreciation of the complexity of language acquisition in different contexts;
- (d) A basic grasp of the methods used in language acquisition studies, and how they are used to address specific issues of language acquisition.

List of topics

Торіс	Contents/fundamental concepts
Module 1: Fundamental concepts of lan	guage acquisition
1A Introduction to language acquisition	 Different types of language acquisition: monolingual and bilingual first language acquisition, second vs. heritage language acquisition, and atypical language development The logical problem of language acquisition
1B Biological foundations of language acquisition	 Human language versus other animal communication systems; unique features of human language The critical period hypothesis
1C The nature and role of linguistic experience in language acquisition	Child-directed speech and recastPositive and negative evidence

Module 2: Major milestones in child language acquisition

2A Phonological development	 Infant speech perception and vocalization; word segmentation; phonological characteristics and rules in child language
2B Lexical and semantic development	 The Gavagai problem; lexical/vocabulary spurt; innate biases for learning the meanings of words; overextension and underextension
2C Syntactic development	 Stages of language development; the onset of functional and lexical categories in grammatical development; the acquisition of word order, negation and questions
2D Morphological development	 The acquisition of regular morphological rules; knowledge of the constraints on word formation; overregularization

Module 3: Methods of studying language acquisition					
3A Methods for examining naturalistic language production	 Collecting and analyzing naturalistic data 				
3B Methods for examining elicited language production	 Experimental methods for eliciting language production 				
3C Methods for examining language comprehension	 Nonverbal methods for studying infants and young toddlers; experimental methods for testing language comprehension 				

Module 4: Approaches to the study of language acquisition

4 A	The nativist approach to language	≻	Universal Grammar; innate knowledge of
	acquisition		language; the poverty of stimulus arguments
4B	The usage-based approach to	\triangleright	Verb island hypothesis; item-based

- language acquisition
- тур 15, constructions

Learning activities

Lecture Interactive Assigned tutorial readings		0	Wri assign	ting ments	W discus		•	z & am		earch oort			
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26	0	12	0	0	60	0	20	0	3	4	0	6	30
М	NA	М	NA	NA	M & O	NA	М	NA	0	М	NA	М	М

M: Mandatory activity in the course O: Optional activity NA: Not applicable

Assessment scheme

Task nature	Weight
Short assignmentsA total of 4; in the format of multiple-choice and short-answer questions	25%
Individual research report Linguistic analysis of naturalistic child speech 	15%
Mid-term quiz	15%
Final examination	35%
In-class mini-exercises	10%

Note: In view of the social distancing measures and travel restrictions imposed due to the COVID-19 pandemic, lectures, the quiz and the exam may be conducted online.

Grade descriptors for assessment

Grade	Overall course
A	Outstanding performance on all learning outcomes, as reflected in excellent performance in class participation, tutorial answers, quizzes, written assignments and the term project, indicating a clear grasp of key concepts, dedicated efforts spent on readings and assignments, seriousness of purpose, intellectual curiosity and a desire to try out new ideas.
A-	Generally outstanding performance on all (or almost all) learning outcomes, as reflected in excellent performance in class participation, tutorial answers, quizzes, written assignments and the term project, indicating a clear grasp of key concepts, dedicated efforts spent on readings and assignments, and seriousness of purpose.
В	Overall substantial performance on learning outcomes, as reflected in good performance in class participation, tutorial answers, quizzes, written assignments and the term project, indicating an adequate grasp of key concepts, serious efforts devoted to readings and assignments, and a general interest in academic study.
С	Satisfactory performance on the majority of learning outcomes, as reflected in an average performance in class participation, tutorial answers, quizzes, written assignments and the term project, indicating a basic grasp of key concepts and basic efforts in completing required readings and assignments.
D	Barely satisfactory performance on a number of learning outcomes, as reflected in low level of class participation, a small amount of effort in returning tutorial answers, poor performance on quizzes, written assignments and the term project, indicating a poor grasp of key concepts, and lack of application in readings and assignments.
F	Unsatisfactory performance on many learning outcomes, as reflected in low level of class participation, little effort in returning tutorial answers, poor performance on quizzes, written assignments and the term project, indicating a failure to understand key concepts, and no evidence for genuine effort in completing readings and assignments.

Recommended learning resources

Reading List on CUHK Library https://bit.ly/3A3VOr7



A. Textbook

Becker, Misha, and Kamil Ud Deen. 2020. Language Acquisition and Development: A Generative Introduction. Cambridge, Massachusetts: The MIT Press.
 <u>eBook</u> [Hardcopy on UL reserve: P118 .B423 2020]

B. Supplementary texts

[S01] Blume, María, and Barbara Lust. 2017. *Research Methods in Language Acquisition: Principles, Procedures, and Practices.* Washington, DC; Boston: American Psychological Association and Walter de Gruyter.

eBook [Hardcopy on UL reserve: P118.15 .B58 2017]

[S02] Lightbown, Patsy M., and Mina Spada. 2013. How Languages are Learned. Fourth ed. Oxford: Oxford University Press.

[Hardcopy on UL reserve: P118.2 .L54 2013]

[S03] O'Grady, William D. 2005. *How Children Learn Language*. Cambridge, UK; New York: Cambridge University Press.

eBook [Hardcopy on UL reserve: P118 .O268 2005]

C. Other recommended texts on first and second language acquisition

- Clark, Eve V. 2016. *First Language Acquisition*. Third ed. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press. Book [Hardcopy on UL reserve: P118 .C547 2016]
- Clark, Eve V. 2017. *Language in Children*. Milton Park, Abingdon, Oxon: Routledge. Book [Hardcopy on UL reserve: P118.3 .C53 2017]
- Guasti, Maria Teresa. 2016. Language Acquisition: The Growth of Grammar. Second ed. Cambridge, MA: The MIT Press.

eBook [Hardcopy on UL reserve: P118 .G83 2016]

Gass, Susan M. with Jennifer Behney and Luke Plonsky. 2020. Second Language Acquisition: An Introductory Course. Fifth ed. New York: Routledge.

eBook [Hardcopy on UL reserve: P118.2 .G37 2020]

- Hoff, Erika. 2014. *Language Development*. Fifth ed. Belmont, CA: Wadsworth, Cengage Learning. Book [Hardcopy on UL reserve: P118 .H64 2014]
- Lust, Barbara. 2006. *Child Language: Acquisition and Growth*. Cambridge; New York: Cambridge University Press.

eBook [Hardcopy on UL reserve: P118 .L87 2006]

Paradis, Johanne, Fred Genesee, and Martha B. Crago. 2021. *Dual Language Development and Disorders: A Handbook on Bilingualism and Second Language Learning*. Third ed. Baltimore; London; Sydney: Paul H. Brookes Publishing.

eBook [Hardcopy on UL reserve: P115.2 .G458 2021]

Saville-Troike, Muriel. 2017. *Introducing Second Language Acquisition*. Third ed. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

eBook [Hardcopy on UL reserve: P118.2 .S28 2012 (Second ed.)]

Saxton, Matthew. 2017. *Child Language: Acquisition and Development*. Second ed. London; Los Angeles: SAGE Publications.

eBook [Hardcopy on UL reserve: P118 .S38 2017]

- Pence Turnbull, Khara L., and Laura M. Justice. 2017. Language Development from Theory to Practice. Third. Upper Saddle River, N.J.: Pearson. [Hardcopy on UL reserve: P118 .P396 2012 (Second ed.); P118 .P396 2015 (Third ed.)]
- Yip, Virginia, and Stephen Matthews. 2007. The Bilingual Child: Early Development and Language Contact. Cambridge, UK; New York: Cambridge University Press.
 Book [Hardcopy on UL reserve: P115.2 .Y55 2007]

D. Handbooks and encyclopedias on language and language acquisition

Bavin, Edith Laura, and Letitia R. Naigles. 2015. *The Cambridge Handbook of Child Language*. Second ed. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

eBook [Hardcopy on UL reserve: P118 .C36 2009 (First ed.)]

Brooks, Patricia J., Vera Kempe, Patricia J. Brooks, and Vera Kempe. 2014. *Encyclopedia of Language Development*. Edited by Patricia Brooks and Vera Kempe. California: SAGE Publications.

eBook

Crystal, David. 2010. *The Cambridge Encyclopedia of Language*. 3rd ed. Cambridge; New York: Cambridge University Press.

[Hardcopy on UL reserve: P29 .C72 2010]

de Villiers, Jill G., and Thomas Roeper. 2011. *Handbook of Generative Approaches to Language Acquisition*. Dordrecht; New York: Springer.

eBook [Hardcopy on UL reserve: P118.H3486 2011]

Doughty, Catherine, and Michael H. Long. 2005. *The Handbook of Second Language Acquisition*. Malden, MA: Blackwell Publishing.

eBook [Hardcopy on UL reserve: P118.2 .H363 2003]

Herschensohn, Julia, and Martha Young-Scholten. 2013. *The Cambridge Handbook of Second Language Acquisition*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

eBook [Hardcopy on UL reserve: P118.2 .C356 2013]

- Hoff, Erika, and Marilyn Shatz. 2007. Blackwell Handbook of Language Development. Malden, MA; Oxford: Blackwell Publishing.
 Book [Hardcopy on UL reserve: P118 .B583 2007]
- Lidz, Jeffrey, William Snyder, and Joe Pater. 2016. *The Oxford Handbook of Developmental Linguistics*. Oxford: Oxford University Press.

[Hardcopy on UL reserve: P118 .O84 2016]

Schwartz, Richard G. 2017. Handbook of Child Language Disorders. Second ed. New York: Routledge.

eBook [Hardcopy on UL reserve: WL340.2 .H25 2017]

Sybesma, Rint. ed. 2015. Encyclopedia of Chinese Language and Linguistics [Electronic Resource]. Leiden: Brill.

eBook [Hardcopy at NA library: PL1031 .E53 2017]

E. References on methods in language acquisition research

- Blom, Elma, and Sharon Unsworth. 2010. Experimental Methods in Language Acquisition Research. Philadelphia; Amsterdam: John Benjamins Publishing.
 Book [Hardcopy on UL reserve: P118 .E87 2010]
- Crain, Stephen, and Rosalind Thornton. 1998. *Investigations in Universal Grammar: A Guide to Experiments on the Acquisition of Syntax and Semantics*. Cambridge, MA: MIT Press. Book [Hardcopy on UL reserve: P118.15 .C73 1998]
- Hoff, Erika, ed. 2012. Research Methods in Child Language: A Practical Guide. Malden, MA; Chichester, West Sussex: Wiley-Blackwell.

eBook [Hardcopy on UL reserve: P118.3 .R47 2012]

- Mackey, Alison, and Susan M. Gass. 2012. Research Methods in Second Language Acquisition: A Practical Guide. Chichester, West Sussex, UK; Malden, MA: Wiley-Blackwell.
 Book [Hardcopy on UL reserve: P118.2 .R473 2012]
- Menn, Lise, and Nan Bernstein Ratner. 2000. *Methods for Studying Language Production*. Mahwah, N.J.; London: Lawrence Erlbaum Associates.

eBook [Hardcopy on UL reserve: P118 .M47 2000]

McDaniel, Dana, Cecile McKee, and Helen Smith Cairns, eds. 1996. *Methods for Assessing Children's Syntax*. Cambridge, MA: MIT Press. Book [Hardcopy on UL reserve: P118.15 .M48 1996]

F. Journals on language acquisition

Bilingualism, Language and Cognition	Journal of Psycholinguistic Research
Child Development	Language Acquisition
Cognition	Language Learning
Developmental Psychology	Language Learning and Development
First Language	Linguistic Approaches to Bilingualism
Frontiers in Psychology	Second Language Research
Journal of Child Language	Second Language Research

G. Corpora on child language

Child Language Data Exchange System (CHILDES) <u>https://childes.talkbank.org</u> The Hong Kong Cantonese Child Language Corpus (CANCORP)

http://www.arts.cuhk.edu.hk/~lal/corpora.html#CANCORP

Feedback for evaluation

A mid-term course evaluation and an end-of-term course evaluation will be conducted. Students are welcome to give feedback to the course teacher at any time in person or through emails.

Course schedule

Week	Date	Торіс	Readings		
Module 1: Fundamental concepts of language acquisition					
1	Sept 7 (Wed)	[1A] Introduction to language acquisition	[Textbook] Becker, Misha and Kamil Ud Deen. 2020. Chapter 1 "Introduction: What is Language Acquisition?" (p. 3-13) and Chapter 9 (Sections 9.1-9.3) "Acquisition of More than One Language" (p. 265-277).		
			[Supplementary text S02] Lightbown, Patsy M., and Nina Spada. 2013. Chapter 1 "Language Learning in Early Childhood" (Section 1.2: First Language Acquisition & Section 1.5: Childhood Bilingualism) (p. 5-14 & 30-33).		
2	Sept 14 (Wed)	[1B] The biological foundations of language acquisition	[Textbook] Becker, Misha and Kamil Ud Deen. 2020. Chapter 8 "Language Acquisition under Nontypical Circumstances" (p. 225-264).		
		Tutorial #1	[Extended reading] Crain, Stephen, Loes Koring, and Rosalind Thornton. 2017. "Language Acquisition from a Biolinguistic Perspective." <i>Neuroscience and Biobehavioral Reviews</i> 81: 120-127 (Sections 1-2).		
3	(Wed) role of linguistic		[Supplementary textbook S03] O'Grady, William. 2005. Chapter 7 (Sections 7.1-7.3) "How Do They Do It?" (p. 164-179).		
		acquisition	[Extended reading] Yang, Charles. 2013. Who's Afraid of George Kingsley Zipf? Or: Do Children and Chimps Have Language? <i>Significance</i> 10(6): 29-34.		
Module	e 2: Majo	r milestones in child lang	uage acquisition (Part I)		

4	Sept 28 (Wed)	[2A] Phonological development	[Textbook] Becker, Misha and Kamil Ud Deen. 2020. Chapter 3 "Early Speech Perception" (p. 55-78) and Chapter 4 "Speech Production and
		Tutorial #3	Phonological Development" (p. 79-102).
			[Extended reading] Tsao, Feng-Ming. 2017. Perceptual Improvement of Lexical Tones in
			Infants: Effects of Tone Language Experience.
			Frontiers in Psychology 8(558): 1-14.

5	Oct 5 (Wed)	[2B] Lexical and semantic development	[Textbook] Becker, Misha and Kamil Ud Deen. 2020. Chapter 5 "Word Learning" (p. 105-133).
		Tutorial #4	[Extended reading] Tardif, Twila, Susan A. Gelman, and Fan Xu. 1999. Putting the "Noun Bias" in Context: A Comparison of English and Mandarin. <i>Child Development</i> 70(3): 620-635.

Module 3: Methods of studying language acquisition (Part I)

6	Oct 12 (Wed)	[3A] Methods for examining naturalistic language production	[Textbook] Becker, Misha and Kamil Ud Deen. 2020. Appendix B – Module 1 "Naturalistic Data" (p. 293-296).
		Tutorial #5	[Supplementary text S01] Blume, María, and Barbara Lust. 2017. Chapter 4 - "Studying Language Acquisition Through Collecting Speech" (p. 71-84).

Module 2: Major milestones in child language acquisition (Part II)

7	Oct 19 (Wed)	[2C] Syntactic development I Tutorial #6	 [Textbook] Becker, Misha and Kamil Ud Deen. 2020. Chapter 7 (Sections 7.1-7.2 "Syntactic Development" (p. 167-189). [Extended reading] Su, Yi-Ching. 2015. "Acquisition of Syntax, L1, Overview." In Encyclopedia of Chinese Language and Linguistics, edited by Rint Sybesma. Leiden: Brill.
8	Oct 26 (Wed)	[2C] Syntactic development II Pop-up session #1	 [Textbook] Becker, Misha and Kamil Ud Deen. 2020. Chapter 7 (Sections 7.3-7.8) "Syntactic Development" (p. 190-222). [Extended reading] Yip, Virginia and Stephen Matthews. 2007. Chapter 4 "Wh-interrogatives: To Move or Not to Move?" In The Bilingual Child: Early Development and Language Contact, 87-132. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
9	Nov 3 (Thur)		Mid-term quiz

10	Nov 9 (Wed)	[2D] Morphological development I	[Textbook] Becker, Misha and Kamil Ud Deen. 2020. Chapter 6 (Sections 6.1-6.2) "The Acquisition of Morphology" (p. 135-145).
		Tutorial #7	[Extended reading] Lee, Thomas Hun-tak. 1996. "Theoretical Issues in Language Development and Chinese Child Language – Section 3 Acquisition of Syntax and Morphology" In New Horizons in Chinese Linguistics, eds. James C.T. Huang and Audrey Li, 302-317. Dordrecht: Kluwer.
11	Nov 16 (Wed)	[2D] Morphological development II	[Textbook] Becker, Misha and Kamil Ud Deen. 2020. Chapter 6 (Sections 6.3-6.8) "The Acquisition of Morphology" (p. 145-163).
		Tutorial #8	[Extended reading] Paradis, Johanne. 2010. Bilingual Children's Acquisition of English Verb Morphology: Effects of Language Exposure, Structure Complexity, and Task Type. Language Learning 60(3): 651-680.
Modul	le 3: Metho	ods of studying language	e acquisition (Part II)
12	Nov 23 (Wed)	[3B] Methods for examining elicited language production	[Textbook] Becker, Misha and Kamil Ud Deen. 2020. Appendix B – Module 2 "Production
12		examining elicited	 [Textbook] Becker, Misha and Kamil Ud Deen. 2020. Appendix B – Module 2 "Production Data" (p. 296-300) and Appendix B – Module 3 "Comprehension Data" (p. 300-310). [Supplementary text S01] Blume, María, and Barbara Lust. 2017. Chapter 6 - "Experimental Tasks for Generating Language Production Data" (p. 119-136) and Chapter 7 -
12		examining elicited language production [3C] Methods for examining language	 [Textbook] Becker, Misha and Kamil Ud Deen. 2020. Appendix B – Module 2 "Production Data" (p. 296-300) and Appendix B – Module 3 "Comprehension Data" (p. 300-310). [Supplementary text S01] Blume, María, and Barbara Lust. 2017. Chapter 6 - "Experimental Tasks for Generating Language Production

13	Nov 30 (Wed)	[4A] The nativist approach to language acquisition[4B] The usage-based approach to language acquisitionPop-up session #2	 [Textbook] Becker, Misha and Kamil Ud Deen. 2020. Chapter 2.1 "Universal Grammar" (p. 15- 35), Chapter 2.3 "Modern Constructivist Approaches" (p. 39-45), Chapter 2.4 "How Does Constructivism Differ from the UG-Based Approach?" and Chapter 2.5 "Summary" (p. 45- 48). [Extended reading] Yang, Charles. 2018. A Formalist Perspective on Language Acquisition. <i>Linguistic Approaches to Bilingualism</i> 8(6): 665- 706.
			[Extended reading] Tomasello, Michael. 2015. "The Usage-based Theory of Language Acquisition." In <i>The Cambridge Handbook of</i> <i>Child Language</i> , eds. Edith Laura Bavin and Letitia R. Naigles, 89-106. Second ed. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
14	Dec 8 (Thur)		Final examination

Module 4: Approaches to the study of language acquisition

Contact details for instructor and TA

Instructor	
Name:	Dr. Margaret Lei
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Office hours:	By appointment

Teaching Assistant	
Name:	Ms. Zhixian Huang
Office location:	Rm G16, Leung Kau Kui Building, CUHK
Telephone:	3943-7053
Email:	zhixianhuang@cuhk.edu.hk
Office hours:	By appointment

Details of course website LING 5103B on Blackboard https://blackboard.cuhk.edu.hk/

Academic honesty and plagiarism

Attention is drawn to University policy and regulations on honesty in academic work, and to the disciplinary guidelines and procedures applicable to breaches of such policy and regulations. Details may be found at <u>http://www.cuhk.edu.hk/policy/academichonesty/</u>.

With each assignment, students will be required to submit a signed <u>declaration</u> that they are aware of these policies, regulations, guidelines and procedures. For group projects, all students of the same group should be asked to sign on the declaration.

For assignments in the form of a computer-generated document that is principally text-based and submitted via VeriGuide, the statement, in the form of a receipt, will be issued by the system upon students' uploading of the soft copy of the assignment. Assignments without the receipt will not be graded by teachers. Only the final version of the assignment should be submitted via VeriGuide.

The submission of a piece of work, or a part of a piece of work, for more than one purpose (e.g. to satisfy the requirements in two different courses) without declaration to this effect shall be regarded as having committed undeclared multiple submissions. It is common and acceptable to reuse a turn of phrase or a sentence or two from one's own work; but wholesale reuse is problematic. In any case, agreement from the course teacher(s) concerned should be obtained prior to the submission of the piece of work.