

Studyguide to L1 and L2 Acquisition

L1 Development of (a) sounds.

What seems innate (\pm voice; babbling)? What is universal (stops are 'easy', labials are too)? Assimilation and simplification.

(b) **morphology**. Overgeneralization (goed rather than went) and developmental sequence.

(c) **syntax**. From one word to two word to telegraphic speech to 'normal' speech.

(d) **semantics**. Over extension and underextension.

Learning: Imitation, error correction, or innateness??

Talking about acquisition, Chomsky always refers to "Plato's Problem": How come we know so much on the basis of so little evidence? (He also worries about "Orwell's Problem" when talking about politics and the media: How come we know so little on the basis of so much data?)

L2 Issues:

Optimal Age, Universal Grammar (i.e. innatism), Interlanguage, Interference.



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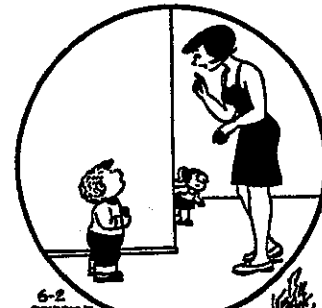
"Wow! I must've been gooder than I thought!"

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"Mommy, Dolly hit me."
"Dolly hit me."
"You too? I Boy, she's in trouble!"

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