Language Acquisition

Stages of Acquisition

Basic biological noises—8 wks
Cooing and Laughing 8-20 wks
Vocal Play—20-30 weeks
Babbling—25-50 weeks
Melodic utterance: 9-18 months
Holophrastic: 12-18 months

Two word/ Telegraphic Stage: 2 years

Caretaker Language
Over extension
Under extension
Learning more complicated words
Functions and Purposes of Language use
Passive and active
Forming longer sentences
Forming negatives
Asking questions
Pragmatic development
Articulation

Basic Reading List

Cambridge Encyclopaedia of Language: David Crystal
Cambridge Encyclopaedia of English Language: David Crystal
Mastering Advanced Level English Language: Sara Thorne
Listen to your child: David Crystal
Words in the Mind: Jean Aitcheson
A Child's Learning of English: Paul Fletcher

Some websites

www.aqa.org.uk/qual/gcea/sa/engLaB
http://childes.psy.cmu.edu/html/sites/html
https//cnts.la.ac.be/rasc
(will link to other relevant sites)

Research tasks

Investigate your own early language acquisition—baby books, tapes, interview parents and older siblings

Tape conversations with young relatives and friends. Note patterns of use, describing these using appropriate terminology for the stage of development

Read a variety of parenting magazines, focusing on articles about language development

Visit a pre-school and or reception class. Use 'Stages of Acquisition' notes to test children's expertise and areas for development in language use.

Language development in school

Socialisation

Learning to read

Obstacles to Literacy

Learning to write

Life long language learning

Theorists

Piaget: Cognition
Linguistic structures will only emerge if there is an already established cognitive foundation

Chomsky: Innateness (Language Acquisition Device)

Skinner: Behaviourism - imitation

Assessment

Unit 6—2 hour exam. One hour on Language change question, choice of two, and one hour on Language Acquisition question, choice of two. Questions are based on data printed in the exam booklet. Equal marks for Acquisition and change of answers.

Assessment Objectives

Apply frameworks for systematic study of language

Understand, discuss and explore concepts and issues relating to language in use

Clearly communicate the knowledge, understanding and insight appropriate to language study; use appropriate terminology and accurate, coherent expression.