

Veranstalter:	Prof. Dr. Peter Siemund
Thema:	Language Acquisition (– auf Englisch)
Art der Veranstaltung:	Seminar II
Veranstaltungsnummer:	53-520
Zeit:	2st. Mo 16-18
Raum:	Phil 1219
Beginn:	07.04.2014

Course description:

The acquisition and learning of languages remains one of the most fascinating areas of scientific inquiry. While children acquire the language or languages of their environment seemingly without effort, adults typically need to take great pains to learn new languages later in life. Untutored language acquisition of the type children are able to perform only appears possible during a restricted time window in early childhood, often referred to as the ‘critical period’. This observation sparked intense research into the principles and constraints on different types of acquisition and learning, which we will explore in the course of this seminar. It also evoked heated debates concerning the cognitive resources that learners make use of and their status in theories of mind.

This seminar will provide a broad overview of language acquisition and learning offering scope for a host of interests, tastes, and persuasions. Monolingual acquisition will be contrasted with bilingual acquisition, first language acquisition with second and third language acquisition, acquisition with learning, tutored learning with untutored acquisition, balanced bilingualism with unbalanced bilingualism, bilingualism with multilingualism, and so on and so forth.

After a few introductory lecture-like sessions, I would like you to participate actively in the seminar, exploring different language acquisition scenarios on your own. Depending on your dispositions, you may investigate child language acquisition in kindergartens and primary schools, second and third language acquisition in secondary schools and at university, and perhaps also in untutored settings. We will develop a systematics of the various conceivable scenarios in the initial sessions of the seminar.

Clark, Eve. 2009. *First Language Acquisition*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

Ellis, Rod. 1997. *Second Language Acquisition*. Oxford: Oxford University Press.

Tomasello, Michael. 2005. *Constructing a Language: A Usage-Based Theory of Language Acquisition*. Harvard: Harvard University Press

Sprechstunde während der Vorlesungszeit:	s. Aushang
Sprechstunden während der Semesterferien:	s. Aushang