

Veranstalter	Daniela Schröder
Thema	First Language Acquisition [ENG-4/a, AA-V1ab, AA-V2ab, ENG-10, ENG-11, AA7, AA9, LAA8, LAA11, MOTION, AA-W, AA-WB]
Art der Veranstaltung	Seminar II
Veranstaltungsnummer	53-516
Zeit	2st. Mo 14-16 Uhr
Raum	Phil 1269
Beginn	17.10.2016

Course description:

Christian, one month old, not keen on having a bath: “Waaaaaaa!”
 Christian, 2 years old, not keen on hearing a scary story: “No talk”
 Christian, 4,5 years old, not keen on leaving for his first day of school: “Mum, I don’t think I want to go through with this!” [from Stilwell Peccei ²1999: 1]

Children acquire their first language in a few years, without explicit instruction and seemingly without much effort. How does this work? How does child language develop? These are the core questions this seminar deals with. We will look at how the acquisition of phonology, morphology, syntax, semantics and pragmatics interact and what kind of knowledge is necessary in order to speak and understand a language. Further, we address the questions of how much and what kind of input is needed.

The course will familiarize students with the most important facts about stages in the acquisition of a first language. Students will also get to know important databases of child language (especially CHILDES) and learn how to work with them. On the basis of different data we will discuss different theoretical approaches to first language acquisition (linguistic nativism vs. usage-based approaches) throughout the course.

Students are expected to have a good command of basic linguistic concepts and terminology

Terms for credit:

active participation in class, do all (!) the required reading assignments, a short oral report and a final term paper. If necessary, readings will be checked by in-class tests

References:

Clark, Eve V. ³2016. *First Language Acquisition*. Cambridge: CUP.

Lust, Barbara C. and Claire Foley. 2004. *First Language Acquisition. The essential readings*. Malden et al.: Blackwell Publishing.

Further references will be released in the first session

Sprechstunde während der Vorlesungszeit:	Wednesday 11-12 pm or by appointment
Sprechstunden während der Semesterferien:	by appointment (contact me via email first, please)