

Language Acquisition 1

Description:

This is a foundation course focusing principally on theories of first language acquisition (Child Language Acquisition). The course will start with a discussion of the perspectives to the study of first language acquisition and the established knowledge resulting from research focusing on children acquiring their first language. It also delves into the biological and cognitive dimensions of first language acquisition and moves to more debatable concepts used to explain the feat of language acquisition and language socialization.

Resources:

Class work consists principally of lectures supplemented by selected readings serving as basis for student presentations. Readings will be made available accordingly to expand on the issues discussed in the lectures.

Evaluation: Student will sit for a comprehensive exam end of semester 1 which consists of a three-hour exam on a topic covering issues related to the course content and additional required readings supplied accordingly.

References:

- Lust, B. (2006) *Child Language Acquisition and Growth*. Cambridge University Press.
- Carroll, D. W. (2008) (5th ed.). *Psychology of Language*. Thomson Higher Education.
- Fletcher, P. and MacWhinney, B. (Eds) (1996). *The Handbook of Child Language*. Blackwell Publishing. Part II is very pertinent.