

Behavioural Development: A Series of Monographs
Series editor: Rudolph Shaffer

The Child's Construction of Language

edited by W. Deutsch

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The basic mechanisms underlying first language acquisition are still the subject of controversy. This book addresses itself to the question of what role a child himself plays in the process of gradual change from one level to linguistic functioning to the next, in order to reach the linguistic standards of the community. Evidence is presented which shows that man is predisposed to play an active, constructive part in language acquisition and that communicative pressure to make oneself understood and to understand others is not sufficient explanation for the growth of language skills. Instead, the child passes through a series of transitions where his linguistic means become increasingly independent of the interactive framework – that is, “abstract” – thus enabling the child to understand utterances without contextual aids and eventually to acquire a notion of language as a formal system.

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Amy, Wendy, and Beth

Learning Language in South Baltimore

By PEGGY J. MILLER

In the first major study of early language development in white working-class families, three young children are observed learning language under everyday conditions. Amy, Wendy, and Beth emerge as enthusiastic and able language learners; their families, as sensitive, caring partners in the language socialization process. No support is given to past claims that such children are linguistically deprived. Miller's innovative, ethnographic approach to the study of language development and social class and her eloquent writing style give additional value to this work.

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NOTES FOR CONTRIBUTORS

Papers, notes and reviews should be sent to Prof. D. Crystal, Department of Linguistic Science, University of Reading, Whiteknights, Reading, Berkshire, England. They should normally be written in English. Major articles should not exceed twenty printed pages.

Three copies of the typescript should be submitted, one of which should be the top copy. Contributions should be clearly typed with double spacing, on one side of the paper only, using a conventional size of paper, preferably A4 (or 21.6 by 28 cm). Authors should hold one copy for correction of proofs. Footnotes, which should be as few as possible, should be listed, double spaced, on a separate sheet at the end of the article. Tables and figures should be drawn on separate pages at the end of the article. Each table/figure should have a title, and there should be an indication in the body of the text as to placement. Tables and figures should each be numbered independently of examples of utterances, etc. The title-page should include the title, author's name and affiliation, together with the address to which proofs are to be sent. Titles should be so worded that the first part may be used as a running headline (with a maximum length of 50 characters, including spaces). An abstract of the article (max. 120 words) should be typed on a separate sheet.

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References are to be made in the text thus: (Neisser 1967: 222). If the author's name is part of the text, the following form should be used: 'Piaget (1967: 131) investigates...'. When a work written by three or more authors is referred to, all names should be given in the first citation, with an ampersand linking the last two; e.g. (Fraser, Bellugi & Brown 1963); in subsequent citations the first name only should be given, with '*et al.*' added.

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- Carroll, J. B. (1961). Language development in children. In S. Saporta (ed.), *Psycholinguistics: a book of readings*. New York: Holt, Rinehart & Winston.
- Lenneberg, E. H. (1967). *Biological foundations of language*. New York: Wiley.
- Oldfield, R. C. & Marshall, J. C. (eds) (1968). *Language*. Harmondsworth: Penguin.
- Velten, H. V. (1943). The growth of phonemic and lexical patterns in infant language. *Lg* 19. 281-92.

With the exception of the title-page, book reviews should be submitted in the same form as articles. The title-page should be of the following form:

- F. Smith & G. A. Miller (eds), *The genesis of language*. Cambridge, Mass.: MIT Press, 1966. Pp. xii + 400.

Reviewed by ROGER J. WALES,
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University of Edinburgh.

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