

Acquisition process

Is the process of language acquisition the same for hearing & Deaf children?

- Deaf/hh/hearing children who acquire ASL as a first language do so reaching **similar milestones** and using **similar strategies** as hearing children acquiring a spoken language

Deaf/hh children who are exposed to spoken language only vary tremendously in their ability to acquire spoken languages...they are most at risk for cognitive delays

How is the process the same?

- Playing with early language forms (babbling)
- Acquisition strategies
- Milestones

Petitto and Marentette, (1991)

Babbling in the Manual Mode

- Are the innate abilities of language users specific to SPOKEN language and sparked into use only by speech?
- Video
- Manual Babbling: “linguistically important handshapes/movements” “syllables”
 - 5, 5-claw, G, A, A-thumb extend, S, B, I, F, C, O, bO,
 - Syllabic Babbling=2 hs repeated

Acquisition strategies: Stages

- Wholistic learning or avoidance
- Error analysis/overgeneralization/
overextensions
- Acquired feature

Acquisition strategies: Pronoun Stages

Clark (1978)

- **Avoidance**
 - Children use proper nouns (mom, Lisa..)
 - Not “you” “me” “her”
- **Error analysis**
 - Around 1;6: Pronoun confusions
 - MOM: Who is that? It’s me (pointing to picture of self)
 - CHILD: It’s me (pointing to picture of mom).
- **Acquired feature**
 - Around 2;3: Acquired “You” and “me”

Acquisition of ASL Pronouns

- Iconicity or transparency effects?

ASL Pronouns (Petitto 1983/1990)

9-10 months pointing (outstretched arm) at
people, objects, sometimes self

Avoidance

1yr.-1;5 avoidance stops pointing to people
and self (uses proper nouns and name signs)...
points only to objects

Error analysis

1;5-1;8 PRO. (arm bent **form**)
YOU and ME confusions

Acquired feature

2;1-2;3 ME acquired first...YOU...

Milestones (handout)

Process of language acquisition

- Strikingly similar processes despite different modalities ...