

1. Overview: Communication Development

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2. Definition of Terms

Definition of Terms

- The Language Code
- Phonology
- Semantics
- Syntax
 - Morphology
- Pragmatics

- Linguistic fluency entails mastery of each of these elements

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3. Stages of Language Development

Stages of Language Development

- Pre-linguistic (0-12 months)
 - Word Learning (13 months onwards)
 - Syntactic Relations (20 months onwards)
 - Discourse/pragmatics (elementary school years)
 - Irony, sarcasm, humor (non-literal communication)
 - Perspective taking
 - Social/interactional skills
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4. Prelinguistic Communication

Prelinguistic Communication

- Infant Communication
 - Perceptual -
 - 'Motherese'
 - Affect
 - Productive
 - Babbling Patterns
 - Timetable for babbling
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5. Speech Production

Speech Production

Stage One:

- Reflexive crying and vegetative sounds stage
- Automatic sounds - infant has no obvious control over sounds that come out in response to the environment or during activities
- 0-2 months

Stage Two:

- Cooing and laughter stage
 - Mostly vowel-like sounds; not well-defined
 - May include protosyllables (syllabic nasal consonants or nasalized vowels)
 - 2-4 months
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6. Speech Production, cont.

Speech Production, cont.

Stage Three

- Vocal play stage
 - See the emergence of prolonged vowels or sustained consonant-like sounds
 - Start to see changes in loudness and pitch accompanying the sounds
 - Much more variation in tongue height and position compared to Stage 2
 - 4-6 months
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7. Speech Production, cont.

Speech Production, cont.

Stage Four

Canonical Babbling.

- **Babbles = Consonant-vowel sequences. Two forms**
 - Reduplicated babbling (all syllables are the same) e.g., /bebebebebe/
 - Variegated babbling (specific consonants or vowels change from one syllable to the next)
e.g., /bedigodigo/
 - Both forms may be present from the beginning
 - 6 months onwards
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8. Speech Production, cont.

Speech Production, cont.

Stage Five

- Jargon stage
 - Overlaps with period of first words
 - Babbling is combined with changes in intonation, rhythm, and pausing
 - Sounds like “sentences without words”
 - 10 + months

 - Delayed canonical babbling most predictive of language disorder/delay
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9. Vocabulary Composition

Vocabulary Composition

- Begins at approximately 13-15 months
- Enormous variability
 - First word
 - Rate of growth

- General Nominals
- Specific Nominals
- Action Words
- Modifiers
- Personal-Social Words
- Function Words

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10. Rate of Growth

Rate of Growth

- 50 words – noun spurt
 - Most children show a 'vocabulary spurt' at this age
 - 'Conceptual knowledge'
 - 'Fast mapping'

- Not all children go through this stage
 - More gradual course of acquisition

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11. Transition to Early Syntax

Transition to Early Syntax

- One to two-word stage – Begins 18 to 24 months
- What counts as syntax?
 - Evidence of syntax e.g. 'ow eye'
 - Not evidence of syntax 'idontknow'
- Two word combinations
 - “Daddy sit”
- Relational meaning
 - Possessives (“More juice”)
 - Locatives (“Shoe there”)

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12. 2 to 3 Words

2 to 3 Words

- Begins 27 to 30 months
- Expansion of 2 word utterance
 - “I watch (it)”
- Here and now
- Affirmative & declarative
- Missing bound morphemes & functors (“in”, “on”, “to”, verb inflections)
 - Telegraphic Speech
- Ends by 36 months

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13.

Grammatical Elaboration

Grammatical Elaboration

- Begins 31 to 34 months
 - Introduction of negative in correct form
 - Beginning of question forms
 - Noun phrase elaboration (e.g. inclusion of 'some', 'any', etc.)
 - Still simple sentences

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14.

Complex Sentences

Complex Sentences

- Begins at 35 to 40 months
 - Use of embedded sentences
 - "The girl [who talked to me] is there"
- Begins at 47+ months
 - Sentence combinations
 - "And"
 - "So", "because", "if"

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15. Grammatical Development

Grammatical Development

- Not closely tied to age
- Tied to grammatical complexity (e.g., verb agreement, pluralization)
 - Complexity of sentences predicts:
 - Use of Negatives
 - Mastery of Question/forms
 - Use of more complex sentence types (e.g. passive voice)

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16. Language Development in School Years

Language Development in School Years

- Increased heterogeneity
 - Stylistic
 - Effects of education (input)
- Slower rate of change
 - Discovering structure
 - Adding to existing knowledge
 - Efficiency of processes
- Metalinguistic awareness
- Media of expression
- Personal development

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17.

Issues in Language Assessment

Issues in Language Assessment

- Heterogeneity of population:
 - Normal Variability vs. Pathology
- Nature of pathology:
 - Delay vs. deviance
- Relationship between domains of language
 - Interdependence vs. independence of domains of language
 - Phonological disorders -> reading difficulties -> dyslexia -> vocabulary delay -> syntactic delays

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