

## Child Language Acquisition

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### Description:

The aim of the course is to provide an overview of the main theoretical and methodological approaches to the study of child language. While examining the trajectory of acquisition in typically developing children, we will also discuss the efficiency of the use of various research methods.

### Preliminary schedule:

March 31, 2022 – 1. Introduction to the theoretical perspectives on language acquisition

2. Introduction to the methodology of acquisition research

April 1, 2022 – 3. Typical development in the first year of age

4. Building the vocabulary

5. The emergence of grammar in the second and the third year

6. Preschoolers' linguistic and metalinguistic abilities

April 2, 2022 – 7. Crosslinguistic approaches to language acquisition

8. Theoretical implications

### Recommended readings:

Bavin, Edith L. (Ed.) 2009. *The Cambridge Handbook of Child Language*. New York: Cambridge University Press.

Blom, Elma & Unsworth, Sharon 2010. *Experimental Methods in Language Acquisition Research*. Amsterdam: John Benjamins.

Clark, Eve V. 2009. *First Language Acquisition* (2<sup>nd</sup> edition). Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

Guasti, Maria Teresa 2002. *Language Acquisition: The Growth of Grammar* (2<sup>nd</sup> edition). Cambridge, MA: The MIT Press.

### Requirements:

Students taking this course for credit are expected to actively participate in at least 80% of the sessions, and submit an essay via e-mail (to [pinter.lilla@btk.ppke.hu](mailto:pinter.lilla@btk.ppke.hu)) by May 15. The topic can either be a literature review on the acquisition studies of a particular linguistic phenomenon you are interested in, or a detailed research plan of an experiment you would like to design (including both the methodology and the linguistic background). The paper should be minimum 3000 words long without title page and references. Please follow the Generic Style Rules for linguistics: <https://www.eva.mpg.de/lingua/pdf/GenericStyleRules.pdf>. Any form of academic dishonesty will result in automatic rejection of the paper and thus failing the course. Please educate yourself about [plagiarism](#).