

# Language Acquisition and Development

LN435

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78 items

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## General Course Books (16 items)

These resources are general introductions to language acquisition and development

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**Child language: acquisition and development**, by Saxton, Matthew, 2010

[Book](#) | **Recommended for student purchase** | This is the set text. Buy a copy!

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**Child language**, by Peccei, Jean Stilwell, 1999

[Book](#) | **Key** | Lots of the seminar tasks are based on this book. This is the ebook. Hard copies are also available (see below)

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**Child language**, by Jean Stilwell Peccei, 1999

[Book](#) | **Key**

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**First language acquisition**, by Clark, Eve V., 2009

[Book](#) | **Key** | This is a very important book, integrating social and cognitive approaches.

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**First language acquisition**, by Eve V. Clark, 2009

[Book](#) | **Key** | eBook version of the above

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**The development of language**, by Gleason, Jean Berko; Ratner, Nan Bernstein, c2009

[Book](#) | **Key** | Comprehensive and in-depth.

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**The language instinct: how the mind creates language**, by Pinker, Steven, 2007

[Book](#) | **Recommended** | This was published as a 'Popular Science' book for the general public. It caused an outcry and is still heavily debated. He's a very persuasive writer. But is he right?

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**Child language: acquisition and growth**, by Lust, Barbara, 2006

[Book](#) | **Recommended** | Another general introduction, which is highly regarded.

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**The handbook of child language**, by Fletcher, Paul; MacWhinney, Brian, 1996

[Book](#) | **Recommended**

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**How children learn language**, by O'Grady, William D., 2005

[Book](#) | **Recommended** | This is a very good book to get started. It also has lots of information on the types of empirical tests that can be carried out. This is the ebook. The hard copy can be found below.

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**How children learn language**, by O'Grady, William D., 2005

[Book](#) | **Recommended**

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**Inside language**, by Cook, Vivian, 1997

[Book](#) | **Recommended** | "Wide-ranging and stimulating" it says on the back.

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**The communicative competence of young children: a modular approach**, by Foster, Susan H., 1990

[Book](#) | **Further** | Introduces discussion of pragmatic and communicative development.

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**Pathways to language: from fetus to adolescent**, by Karmiloff, Kyra; Karmiloff-Smith, Annette, c2001

[Book](#) | **Further** | An accessible overview of current debates.

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**Language acquisition: a linguistic introduction**, by Goodluck, Helen, 1991

[Book](#) | **Further**

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**Child's talk: learning to use language**, by Bruner, Jerome S.; Watson, Rita, 1983

[Book](#) | **Further**

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## Week 1 (3 items)

Introduction to issues in language acquisition

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Any reading from the books in the general reading section will help. I recommend Pinker and Aitchison for an easy introduction.

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**Child language acquisition: contrasting theoretical approaches**, by Ben Ambridge; Elena V. M. Lieven, 2011

[Book](#) | **Recommended**

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**Child language acquisition: contrasting theoretical approaches**, by Ben Ambridge; Elena V. M. Lieven, 2011

[Book](#) | **Recommended** | eBook version

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## Week 2 (8 items)

Animal Communication

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**Child language: acquisition and development**, by Saxton, Matthew, 2010

[Book](#) | **Key** | Chapter 2 will give you a good overview.

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**The articulate mammal: an introduction to psycholinguistics**, by Jean Aitchison, 2011

[Book](#) | **Key** | Chapter 2

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**The articulate mammal: an introduction to psycholinguistics**, by Jean Aitchison, 2011

[Book](#) | **Key** | Chapter 2.

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**Neurobiology of language**, by Steven Lawrence Small, 2016

[Book](#) | **Recommended** | Plenty of comparisons between human and non-human neuroanatomy.

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**Neurobiology of language**, by Steven Lawrence Small, 2016

[Book](#) | **Recommended** | eBook version - Plenty of comparisons between human and non-human neuroanatomy.

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**The language instinct: how the mind creates language**, by Pinker, Steven, 2007

[Book](#) | [Recommended](#) | Chapter 11 is about evolution and is fascinating.

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**The emergence of social cognition in three young chimpanzees**, by Tomasello, Michael; Carpenter, Malinda; Hobson, R. Peter; Society for Research in Child Development, 2005

[Book](#) | [Further](#) | A different way of looking at animal communication.

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**The emergence of a new paradigm in ape language research** - in Behavioral and Brain Sciences, by Shanker, Stuart GKing, Barbara J, Oct 2002

[Article](#) | [Further](#)

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## Week 3 (5 items)

The Critical Period for Language Acquisition

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**Child language: acquisition and development**, by Saxton, Matthew, 2010

[Book](#) | [Key](#) | Chapter 3 will give you a good overview.

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**Genie: a psycholinguistic study of a modern-day 'wild child'**, by Curtiss, Susan, 1977

[Book](#) | [Recommended](#) | This is the book that set the debate alight.

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**Genie: a psycholinguistic study of a modern-day 'wild child'**, by Susan Curtiss, 1977

[Book](#) | [Recommended](#) | eBook version - This is the book that set the debate alight.

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**Language development in exceptional circumstances**, by Bishop, D. V. M.; Mogford-Bevan, Kay, 1993

[Book](#) | [Recommended](#) | Read Skuse, D.H. (1993) Extreme deprivation in early childhood.

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**Critical period for first language: the crucial role of language input during the first year of life** - in Current Opinion in Neurobiology, by Naama Friedmann; Dana Rusou, 2015-12

[Article](#) | [Further](#)

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## Week 4 (8 items)

Behaviourist vs. Linguistic Approaches: The Innateness Hypothesis

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**Child language: acquisition and development**, by Saxton, Matthew, 2010

[Book](#) | [Key](#) | Chapter 4 is a good overview.

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**The development of language**, by Gleason, Jean Berko; Ratner, Nan Bernstein, c2009

[Book](#) | [Recommended](#) | pp258-275

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**The language instinct: how the mind creates language**, by Pinker, Steven, 2007

[Book](#) | [Recommended](#) | Just a good read!

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**Linguistics and second language acquisition**, by Cook, Vivian, 1993

[Book](#) | [Further](#) | pp. 25-36

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**What infants know about syntax but couldn't have learned: experimental evidence for syntactic structure at 18 months** - in Cognition, by Jeffrey Lidz; Sandra Waxman; Jennifer Freedman, 2003-10

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[Article](#) | [Further](#) | Inflammatory stuff.

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**The faculty of language: what's special about it?** - in Cognition, by Steven Pinker; Ray Jackendoff, 2005-3

[Article](#) | [Recommended](#)

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**The evolution of the language faculty: Clarifications and implications** - in Cognition, by W. Tecumseh Fitch; Marc D. Hauser; Noam Chomsky, 2005-9

[Article](#) | [Recommended](#)

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**The faculty of language: What is it, who has it, and how did it evolve?** - in Science, by Hauser, Marc D, Nov 22, 2002

[Article](#) | [Recommended](#)

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## Week 5 (6 items)

Critiques of Chomsky's Innateness Hypothesis

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**Language is not an instinct** - in Cognitive Development, by Michael Tomasello, 1995-1

[Article](#) | [Key](#) | The title says it all.

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**The 'language instinct' debate**, by Sampson, Geoffrey; Sampson, Geoffrey, 2005

[Book](#) | [Recommended](#) | A very well constructed argument against Pinker

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**The 'language instinct' debate**, by Geoffrey Sampson; Geoffrey Sampson, 2005

[Book](#) | [Recommended](#) | eBook version - A very well constructed argument against Pinker

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**What counts as evidence in linguistics: the case of innateness**, by Martina Penke; Anette Rosenbach, c2007

[Book](#) | [Recommended](#)

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**Empirical Assessment of the stimulus poverty arguments** - in Linguistic Review, by Pullum, Geoffrey K., 2002

[Article](#) | [Further](#) | Why empirical studies are always a good idea.

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**Beyond formalities: The case of language acquisition** - in Linguistic Review, by Michael Tomasello, 2005

[Article](#) | [Recommended](#)

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## Week 6 (6 items)

Child Directed Speech and the Social Interactionist Approach

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**Child language: acquisition and development**, by Saxton, Matthew, 2010

[Book](#) | [Key](#) | Chapter 4 for an overview.

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**Child language: acquisition and growth**, by Lust, Barbara, 2006

[Book](#) | [Recommended](#) | Chapter 3 gives an excellent overview.

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**First language acquisition**, by Clark, Eve V., 2009

[Book](#) | [Recommended](#) | Chapter 2.

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**First language acquisition**, by Eve V. Clark, 2009

[Book](#) | [Recommended](#) | Chapter 2.

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**The handbook of child language**, by Fletcher, Paul; MacWhinney, Brian, 1996

[Book](#) | [Recommended](#) | The chapter 6 by Catherine Snow is recommended as is Chapter 3 by Ochs and Schieffelin.

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**Input and interaction in language acquisition**, by Gallaway, Clare; Richards, Brian J., 1994

[Book](#) | [Further](#) | Contains articles by the top researchers in the field of CDS.

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## Week 7 (10 items)

An emergentist Approach to the Development of Grammar

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**Child language: acquisition and development**, by Saxton, Matthew, 2010

[Book](#) | [Key](#) | Chapter 9 is a very good overview.

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**Constructing a language: a usage-based theory of language acquisition**, by Tomasello, Michael, 2005

[Book](#) | [Recommended](#) | This is the seminal book.

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**Constructing a language: a usage-based theory of language acquisition**, by Michael Tomasello, 2005

[Book](#) | [Recommended](#) | eBook version of this seminal book

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**Complex systems and applied linguistics**, by Diane Larsen-Freeman; Lynne Cameron, 2008

[Book](#) | [Recommended](#)

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**The handbook of language emergence**, edited by Brian MacWhinney; William O'Grady, 2015

[Book](#) | [Recommended](#)

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**First language acquisition**, by Clark, Eve V., 2009

[Book](#) | [Recommended](#) | Chapter 7 is a usage-based approach but Tomasello hadn't coined the term yet.

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**First language acquisition**, by Eve V. Clark, 2009

[Book](#) | [Recommended](#) | Chapter 7 is a usage-based approach but Tomasello hadn't coined the term yet.

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**First steps toward a usage-based theory of language acquisition.** - in Cognitive Linguistics, by Tomasello, Michael, 2000

[Article](#) | [Further](#)

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**Empirical assessment of stimulus poverty arguments.** - in Linguistic Review, by Pullum, Geoffrey K., 2002

[Article](#) | [Further](#)

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**Neurobiology of language**, by Steven Lawrence Small, 2016

[Book](#) | [Further](#)

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## Week 8 (5 items)

### Language and the Brain

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**First language acquisition**, by Clark, Eve V., 2009

[Book](#) | **Key** | Chapter 15 is the key text.

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**First language acquisition**, by Eve V. Clark, 2009

[Book](#) | **Key** | Chapter 15 is the key text.

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**The language instinct: how the mind creates language**, by Pinker, Steven, 2007

[Book](#) | **Recommended** | Chapter 10 especially.

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**Neurobiology of language**, by Steven Lawrence Small, 2016

[Book](#)

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**Language development in exceptional circumstances**, by Bishop, D. V. M.; Mogford-Bevan, Kay, 1993

[Book](#) | **Further** | Chapter 13 is very informative.

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## Week 9 (6 items)

### Atypical Language Development

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**The development of language**, by Gleason, Jean Berko; Ratner, Nan Bernstein, c2009

[Book](#) | **Key** | Chapter 9 is the key text.

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**Language development in exceptional circumstances**, by Bishop, D. V. M.; Mogford-Bevan, Kay, 1993

[Book](#) | **Recommended** | This book has been very influential.

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**Brain and language**, 2004

[Journal](#) | **Recommended** | Volume 88, Issue 2, Pages 163-258 (February 2004)

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Plasticity and Development: Language in Atypical Children

Edited by Judy S. Reilly and Beverly B. Wulfeck

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**Language development in autism** - in International Journal of Pediatric Otorhinolaryngology, by Jill Boucher, 2003-12

[Article](#) | **Further**

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**Language disorders in children with autism** - in Seminars in Pediatric Neurology, by Isabelle Rapin; Michelle Dunn, 1997-6

[Article](#) | **Further**

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**Language acquisition in autism spectrum disorders: A developmental review** - in Research in Autism Spectrum Disorders, by Inge-Marie Eigsti; Ashley B. de Marchena; Jillian M. Schuh; Elizabeth Kelley, 2011-4

[Article](#)

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## Week 10 (5 items)

### Language Genesis: Pidgins and Creoles

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**Chapter 4 - Some languages are crushed to powder but rise again as new ones** - in *The power of Babel: a natural history of language*, 2002

[Chapter](#) | **Key**

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**The acquisition of Creole languages: how children surpass their input**, by Dany Adone, 2012

[Book](#) | **Recommended**

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**The acquisition of Creole languages: how children surpass their input**, by Dany Adone, 2012

[Book](#) | **Recommended**

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**Pidgin and Creole languages**, by Romaine, Suzanne, 1988

[Book](#) | **Recommended** | A good overview of all the issues.

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**The emergence of pidgin and creole languages**, by Jeff Siegel, 2008

[Book](#)