## Second Language Acquisition

SeBEN09z12

Thomas Wagner



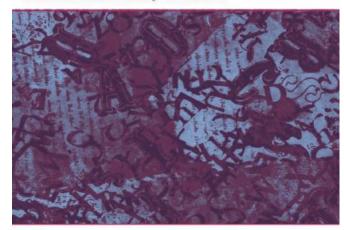
# week 2 – chapter 2

- 1. Did the download work?
  - https://blogs.umass.edu/ moiry/files/2015/08/
     Gass.Second-Language-Acquisition.pdf

Third Edition

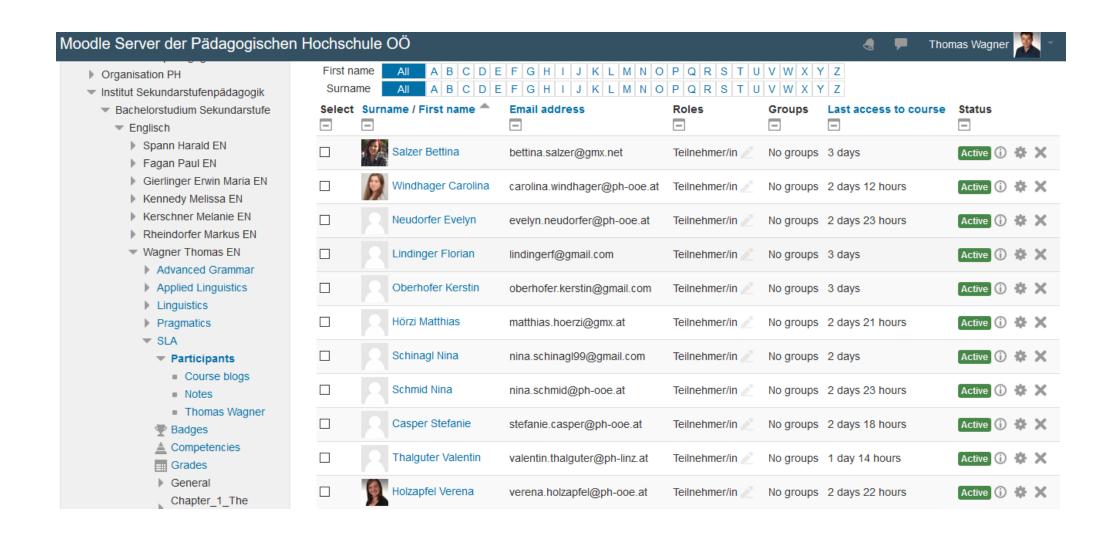


An Introductory Course



Susan M. Gass • Larry Selinker

- 2. Did self-enrollment in Moodle work?
  - https://moodle.ph-ooe.at/course/view.php?id=1443
  - password: VOSLA!
  - download all PPT-slides (to be filled)
  - download handout 1 overview and course description
  - download handout 2 outline, dates, and topics
  - download mock-exam in time (+ keys)



4. save exam dates – new lecture halls

• 1<sup>st</sup> date: Thursday, July 4<sup>th</sup> 09:45 – 11:15 lecture hall 2

• 2<sup>nd</sup> date: Friday, September 27<sup>th</sup> 09:45 – 11:15 lecture hall 2

• 3<sup>rd</sup> date: Friday, December 20<sup>th</sup> 09:45 – 11:15 lecture hall 1

Which of the following questions are key questions in SLA research?

- how are languages acquired?
- how should we teach a foreign language adequately?
- why do learners achieve different levels of proficiency?
- do learners follow universal paths of acquisition?
- why the heck am I sitting here in this lecture?

Which of the following questions are key questions in SLA research?

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Name 3 areas of study related to SLA research

- psychology
- psycholinguistics
- sociology
- [...]

Cite the 5 aspects of human language and give one example each:

•	phonetics	&	phono	logy
---	-----------	---	-------	------

lexicon & morphology

syntax

semantics

pragmatics

discourse

We are sinking – what are you sinking about?

anti + establish + ment + arian + ism

*In God we trust* 

The bachelor is married

It's a little cold in here, isn't it?

rap songs, legal matters, SMS, poetry, ...

Explain the following abbreviations:

- NL
- L2
- TL
- FLL

Explain the following abbreviations:

- NL = native language ≈ the first language that a child learns
- L2 ≈ any language learned after the L1
- TL = target language ≈ the language being learned
- FLL ≈ learning of a non-native language in the environment of one's own language

• how could you characterise a child's language performance versus language competence (Chomsky) based on this utterance?

(1) I want that toy that that boy is playing with.

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(1) I want that toy that that boy is playing with.

performance and competence are distinct properties in our mind. Children are perfect L1 speakers (perfect performance) at some point in their maturation but usually are totally unaware of the mechanisms behind their performance (competence).

In how far could the distinction between
 second language acquisition
 &
 foreign language learning
 be important for pronunciation?

- characterise and evaluate fossilization in interlanguage
- fossilization refers to a natural SLA process in which incorrect language use becomes a habit (conscious or unconscious) in the learner's interlanguage and cannot easily be corrected; an example would be the pronunciation of the English [ $\theta$ ] and [ $\delta$ ] in German learners. Fossilized errors will normally be overcome only once a learner notices and is aware of fossilisation and sees a reason to change this.
- since we all probably will never reach native-like performance in our L2s, we are all constantly subject to fossilisation processes.

# Chapter 2 SLA and related disciplines

#### reading homework 1

• read chapter **2**, pp. 20-38

- bilingualism
- multilingualism
- heritage language
- the bilingual continuum
- the language mode continuum



- linguistics
- psychology
- psycholinguistics
- sociology
- sociolinguistics
- discourse analysis
- education
- [...]

- linguistics
- psychology
- psycholinguistics
- sociology
- sociolinguistics
- discourse analysis
- education
- multilingualism / plurilingualism

what some London primary kids think about language learning

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BF83GlBo-d0

"Why should multilingualism be a problem? We estimate that most of the human language users in the world speak more than one language, i.e. they are at least bilingual. In quantitative terms, then, monolingualism might be the exception, and multilingualism the norm."

Auer & Li, 2007:1

- multicompetence
- " [...] knowledge of two or more languages in one mind. "

Cook 2003:2

about half of the world's population is bilingual<sup>+</sup>

Saville-Troike & Barto 2017:8

 Estimated L1 / L2 distribution of the four most commonly used languages (2000)

	L1 speakers (in millions)	L2 speakers (in millions)
Chinese	1,200	15
English	427	950
Spanish	266	350
Hindi	182	350

some data, for instance from the British Council, suggest that the most frequent language around the world is already English

CEFR: plurilingualism = linguistic competence of an individual

• CEFR: multilingualism = the linguistic diversity of geographical regions

• EU / UN: multilingualism for both ....

 plurilingualism is the growth of an individual's experience of language in its cultural contexts, from the language of the home to that of society; competences are not strictly separated but merged into one communicative competence

multilingualism can be achieved by diversifying the languages on offer

#### bilingualism

"Everyone is bilingual. That is, there is no one in the world (no adult, anyway) who does not know at least a few words in languages other than the maternal variety."

Edwards 2006

• SLA = becoming bilingual

Bhatia 2006

- SLA: bilingual people = those who are truly, as shown through some linguistic measure, the equivalent of native speakers of two languages
- SLA: interest is in people who are in the middle of the process
- is bilingualism a process or an end result?

• is a bilingual someone who can

" do everything perfectly in two languages and who can pass undetected among monolingual speakers of each of these two languages. "

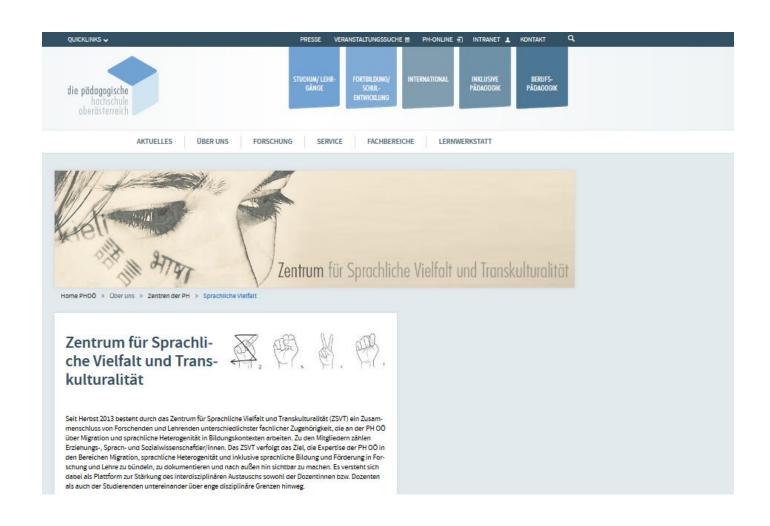
→ the mythical bilingual

Valdés 2001:40

#### who of the following is bilingual?

- a A native speaker of Vietnamese who has been living in the United States for 35 years; speaks English with his American family, friends, and colleagues; and has little or no opportunity to use Vietnamese.
- b A four-year-old child who speaks English with his Canadian father and Japanese with his Japanese mother and lives in Canada.
- c An Italian university student who speaks Sicilian at home and with friends, but watches television and films in Standard Italian and uses the standard at the university.
- d A Ph.D. student who can read Latin texts for her research but doesn't actually speak Latin.
- e You.

are we all bilingual to some degree?



- CEFR
- 2001: levels, descriptors, learner as social agent, ...
- 2007: Plurilingual competence involves the ability to:
  - switch from one language or dialect to another
  - express oneself in one language and understand the other
  - call upon the knowledge of a number of languages to make sense of a text
  - recognise words from a common international store in a new guise
  - mediate between individuals with no common language by bringing the whole of their linguistic equipment into play
  - [...]

" I speak Spanish to God, Italian to women, French to men, and German to my horse."

A witticism sometimes attributed to Charles V., King of Spain (1500-1558)

heritage languages

Polinsky & Kagan 2007

- heritage language is a language
- "which was first for an individual with respect to the order of acquisition but has not been completely acquired because of the switch to another dominant language. An individual may use the heritage language under certain conditions and understand it, but his/her primary language is a different one."

Polinsky 2008:1

• heritage language learners ≠ non-heritage language learning

Campbell & Rosenthal, 2000

superdiversity Vertovec 2007

• translanguaging Garcia 2009

metrolingualism
 Pennycook 2010

• code meshing Canagarajah 2011

• The Multilingual Turn May 2014

• multilingualism as a Lingua Franca?

are interlanguage speakers failed monolinguals or successful bilinguals?

Table 2.1 Definitions of bilingualism

achieved bilingual	same as late bilingual
additive bilingual	someone whose two languages combine in a
ambilingual ascendant bilingual	complementary and enriching fashion same as balanced bilingual someone whose ability to function in a second language is developing due to increased use
ascribed bilingual	same as early bilingual
asymmetrical bilingual	see receptive bilingual
balanced bilingual	someone whose mastery of two languages is roughly
	equivalent
compound bilingual	someone whose two languages are learned at the same
	time, often in the same context
consecutive bilingual	same as successive bilingual
coordinate bilingual	someone whose two languages are learned in
	distinctively separate contexts
covert bilingual	someone who conceals his or her knowledge of a given
	language due to an attitudinal disposition
diagonal bilingual	someone who is bilingual in a nonstandard language or a dialect and an unrelated standard language

A Ab Ab Ab Ab Ab aB Ba Ba Ba Ba B Monolingual Monolingual

Valdes 2001

Valdes 2001

SLA covers anything after L1

SLA acknowledges additional influences

```
    AoA (age of arrival)
```

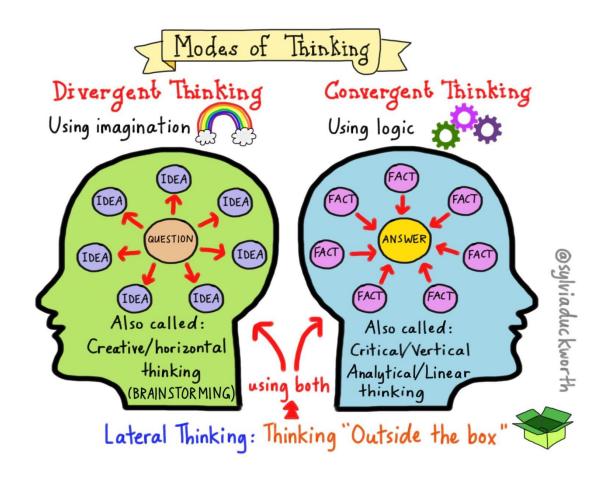
- AoO (age of onset)
- context
- individual differences
- typology
- [...]

- possible advantages
  - communication
  - economic
  - cognitive (divergent thinking, metalinguistic awareness)

divergent thinking?

metalinguistic awareness?

divergent thinking?

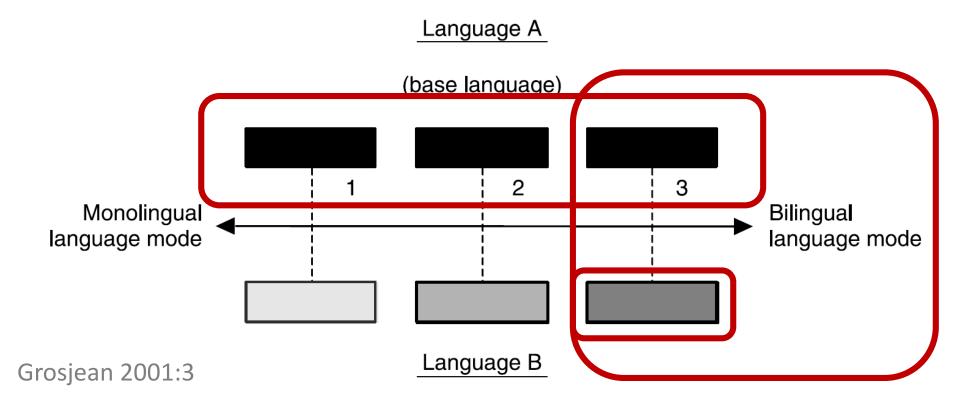


metalinguistic awareness?

"think about language as an object of inquiry rather than as something we use to speak and understand language."

→ PS Applied Linguistics Lexicogrammar (Larsen-Freeman)

• a bilingual's language mode



(1) Data

```
a) Tu as mein Fax bekommen
French French German German
you have my Fax gotten
```

English speaker who has come back from France trying to speak German Baumgartner-Cohen (1995)

(2) Data

```
a) Ils veulent gagner more – euh - plus
French French French English
They want to earn more
```

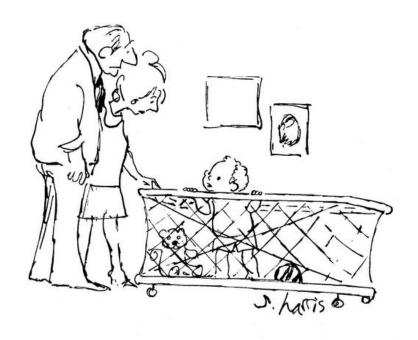
Durch speaker with English as an L2 producing French L3 utterances Dewaele (1998)

- (3) Data
- a) Another example (personal communication) comes from a native speaker of English who had been in Turkey for quite some time. He was traveling in Germany, where he had been before, when he reported on his attempt to speak German: "To my horror, out came Turkish".

Gass & Selinker, 1998:41

# Questions?

- learning a first language is a miracle
  - how do kids now about words?
  - [heɪswiːthɑːrtwʊdjʊlaɪksʌmkrɪsps]
  - how do they get the discrete infinity of language?
  - how come they can imitate every possible human sound?
  - Is / in how far is L1 learned through imitation?
  - is there a limit to L1 acquisition (CPH)?



"WHAT'S THE BIG SURPRISE? ALL THE LATEST THEORIES OF LINGUISTICS SAY WE'RE BORN WITH THE INNATE CAPACITY FOR GENERATING SENTENCES."

https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC3130606/

children learn their L1 because they simply cannot help it

• children's errors tell us a lot about their acquisitional processes

- kids say the darndest things
- https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VLQ2dm-Hhug

- Why do children overgeneralise regular forms....
  - because of the need to improve communication?
  - No bleeded, singed, putted
  - because they are used to corrective feedback
  - No adults say funny things, too

diss, mung, mosh

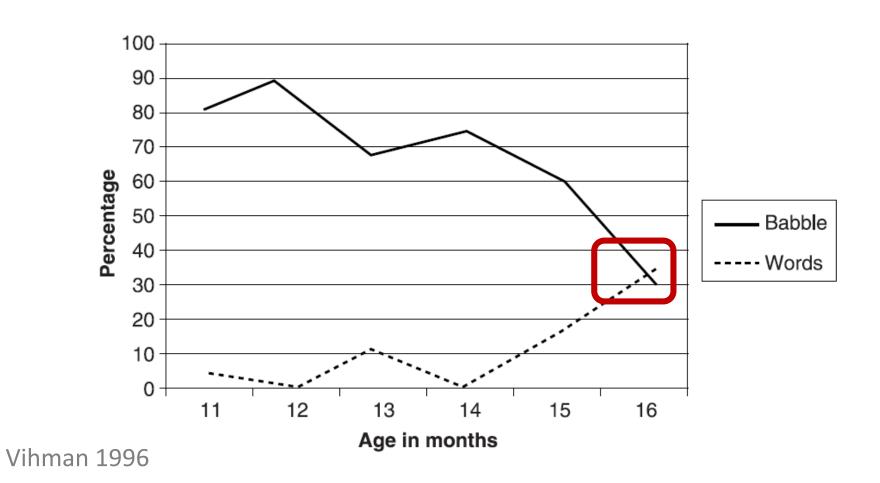
• Universal Grammar – *Language Instinct* 

#### Noam Chomsky



- Innatist Theory
- The Language Acquisition Device (LAD)
- Children have an innate knowledge of the basic grammatical structure that is the basis to all languages
- The Universal Grammar (UG)
- The Critical Period essential for first language acquisition

- cooing & universal phoneticians
- babbling
- intonation, stress baba?
- words as units reference (over- and underextension)
- perception production *I want ice cweam*
- one word two words telegraph style syntax (MLU)
- morpheme order sequence (?)







- Santa Claw
- mik
- *bok*
- len
- clo

• acquisition of the plural –s and its overgeneralisation in a child

Pinker 2000:13

• Santa Claw ← Santa Claus

• mix  $\leftarrow$  mix

• box  $\leftarrow$  box

• len ← lens

• clo  $\leftarrow$  clothes

backformations according to the acquisitional stage's rules

Pinker 2000:13



This is a Wug.





Now there is another one.

There are two of them.

There are two \_\_\_\_.©

Photo courtesy of Jean Berko Gleason

Table 2.3 Mean order of acquisition of morphemes

- 1. Present progressive (-ing) 2/3. in, on
- 4. plural (-s)
- 5. Past irregular
- 6. Possessive (-'s) **-**
- 7. Uncontractible copula (is, am, are)
- 8. Articles (a, the)
- 9. Past regular (-ed)
- 10. Third person regular (-s)
- 11. Third person irregular

- children show universal developmental stages
- children progress at different rates
- children develop the language's grammar from the input (and possibly guided by the LAD)
- there are processing constraints governing acquisition
- L1 acquisition is not determined by IQ
- correction and feedback does not always work

Table 2.2 First vs. second language development		
LI		L2
	INITIAL STATE	
Innate capacity		Innate capacity? L1 knowledge World knowledge Interaction skills
	INTERMEDIATE STATES	
Child grammar		Learner language
	Basic processes	
Maturation		Transfer
	Necessary conditions	
Input Reciprocal interaction		Input
	Facilitating conditions	
		Feedback Aptitude Motivation Instruction
	FINAL STATE	
Native competence		Multilingual competence

• Examples from the Linguistics Society of America (LSA) and Standford

• <a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YuY Up6rZ A">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YuY Up6rZ A</a> question formation

• <a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=17HN5LJOc-w">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=17HN5LJOc-w</a> explicit & implicit

- what can you hypothesise about a child's morphological acquisition based on the following data?
- (4) Data
  - a) Grandma, I seed a lion at the zoo!
  - b) Gigi run fast
  - c) Two cookies

# Questions?

# final exam topics

Chapter 2 – Related disciplines

- a) definitions of plurilingualism, multilingualism, and heritage language
- b) the bilingual continuum Valdes 2001
- c) a bilingual's language mode Grosjean 2001
- d) overgeneralisation in the L1
- e) Differences between L1 and L2 Saville-Troike & Barto 2018

### homework 2

- read chapter 3, pp. 41-82
- try to understand the basics of...

- the importance and limits of SLA data sets
- types of data as well as data collection methods

try to understand all tables and graphs in this chapter