Unit Objectives

Language Development

Students should be able to:

1. Briefly describe, in very general terms, language’s role in communication and cognition.

2. Describe what is known about infant-directed (and child-directed) speech. In your description, define the term "prosody".

3. Describe the role of prosody in infant-directed (and child-directed) speech during the development of language.

4. Define, and provide an example of, each of the 5 components of language.

5. Define, and provide an example of the following terms:
   a. language acquisition support system
   b. overextensions
   c. overregularization

6. Describe the development of language during the first 2 years of life.

7. Describe the development of language from 2-5 years old.

8. Describe the communicative competence of preschoolers.

9. List the evidence in support of the existence of a critical period for language.

10. Briefly explain why language is learned easier in life than later, using the theories below:
    a. Elissa Newport’s less-is-more hypothesis
b. John Locke’s neurolinguistic theory


12. Briefly explain Lev Vygotsky’s ideas about the interrelationship between thought and language.