INTRODUCTION TO PSYCHOLINGUISTICS

Aulia Nisa Khusnia, M.A Muhammadiyah University of Purwokerto

INTRODUCTION

 * Psycholinguistics is the study of the language processing mechanisms.
Psycholinguistics deals with the mental processes a person uses in producing and understanding language.

It is concerned with the relationship between language and the human mind, for example, how word, sentence, and discourse meaning are represented and computed in the mind.

TOPICS TO BE COVERED INCLUEDE

- General issues of psycholinguistics:
- language acquisition (how human beings learn language)
- language production (how we create and express meaning through language)
- language comprehension (how we perceive and understand speech and written language)
- The relationship between language and thought

• Language acquisition refers to the learning and development of a person's language. The learning of a native or first language is called first language acquisition, and the learning of a second or foreign language is called second language acquisition.





Two basic notions in first language acquisition

- Overgeneralization/Overextension(the extension of a rule beyond its proper limits)
- Undergeneralization/Underextension(a child uses a word in a more limited way than adults do)

Examples of overgeneralization

Overgeneralization is a frequent phenomenon in language development. It can be found not only in syntactic usage but also in word meanings.

moons: all round objects

cars: all vehicles

dogs: all four-legged animals

Examples of overgeneralization

Overgeneralization is a frequent phenomenon in language development. It can be found not only in syntactic usage but also in word meanings.

moons: all round objects

cars: all vehicles

dogs: all four-legged animals

Undergeneralization

- Children also undergeneralize. When a child uses a word in a more limited way than adults do (e.g. refusing to call a taxi a car), this phenomenon is called undergeneralization or underextension.
- Shoes only refers to his mother's shoes.
- Hat only refers to his own hat.

Reasons for overgeneralization and undergeneralization

- On some occasions, children's conceptual categories may actually differ from those adults.
- On other occasions, they may know perfectly well that a cow is not a dog but not know what it is called.
- On still other occasions, the child's misuse of words may reflect an attempt at humor.

STAGES OF FIRST LANGUAGE ACQUISITION

The Prelinguistic stage

- Heard numbering vowel and consonant
- babbling

The one word stage

- Holoprastic function
- 1-2 years old

The two word stage

 Having syntactic and semantic

The multiword stage

- between 2-3 years old
- e.g Cathy build house

SECOND LANGUAGE LEARNING

Are children are better than adults when attempting to learn a second language?

FACTORS INVOLVED IN SECOND LANGUAGE ACQUISITION

Psychological

Social situation

Other psychological variables

PSYCHOLOGICAL FACTORS AFFECTING SECOND LANGUAGE LEARNING

induction

- Learning rules by self discovery
- e.g. John danced and then he sang

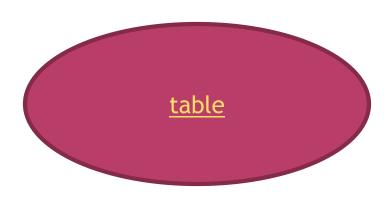
explication

 Young learner would have great difficulty in understanding abstract and complex explanation in second language

memory

This ability in which very young learner s are HIGH

PSYCHOLOGICAL AND SOCIAL FACTORS AFFECTING SECOND LANGUAGE LEARNING FOR CHILDREN AND ADULTS



SOCIAL SITUATION AFFECTING SECOND LANGUAGE LEARNING

A. The natural situation

a natural situation for second language learning is one where the second language is experienced in a situation that similar to that which the native language is learned e.g. 5 years old girl from New York goes to Tokyo with her parents

THE NATURAL SITUATION

- 1. Characteristic of the natural situation
- 2. Decline of beneficial social interaction with age
- With age, language is more essential for social interaction
- 4. Older children can have problems

THE CLASSROOM SITUATION

- The classroom is isolated from other social life
- 2. Everything is planned, little is spontaneous
- 3. Learning language as part of group and not as individual