Module title: Language Acquisition  
Module Code: CMM375  
CRN: 58094  
Credit points: 20 credits

Module Co-ordinator: Dr Juliana Gerard (j.gerard@ulster.ac.uk)

Hours per week: 3hr lecture/seminar  
Independent study, assignment preparation and directed reading (including assessment)

When: Lecture and Seminar on Tuesday from 12.15-15.15

Where: Lecture and Seminar in 17C25

Why am I studying this module?

This module will focus on specific topics in children’s language acquisition, including issues in phonetics and phonology, word learning, and different syntactic phenomena. Special emphasis will be placed on becoming familiar with the kinds of questions, argumentation, and experimental designs that are used in academic journal articles on the topics in this module.

What am I going to learn on this module?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Reading</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>- Guasti ch.1 (req)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Language made fun</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Word learning: nouns and strategies</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
By the end you should be able to:

- Define and discuss the Logical Problem of Language Acquisition in terms of positive evidence, (indirect) negative evidence, and the primary linguistic data.
- Distinguish between arguments for the roles of the environment and of internal properties, and apply these to phenomena discussed in the module.
- Distinguish between arguments for language-specific and more general factors in language acquisition, and evaluate the evidence provided for in support of these factors for a given phenomenon.
- Recognize the key components of an academic research article, and discuss the conclusions of the article by citing the arguments made by the authors.

How am I going to learn on this module?

You have a two hour class during which the material will be presented by the lecturer, followed by a weekly one hour seminar (starting week 2) for discussing questions about assignments and reviewing course material and for presenting research articles as a group with other students in the module. Attendance and participation in both the lectures and seminars is important, and will count towards the final grade. Questions may also be posted in the online discussion board before class, and will still count towards participation.

The lecture will cover new concepts and phenomena in children’s language. The seminar will focus more on experimental design, but will also provide more of an opportunity to cover any questions about new material.
How will I be assessed on this module?

- Most weeks: QALMRI analysis of a research article: 40% 
- Group presentation of research article: 10%
- Participation/attendance during lecture/seminar: 10%
- Final project, including group presentation (experiment proposal): 40%

What should I read for this module?

Required reading:


Link to ebook


https://doi.org/10.1126/science.1107621


**Recommended reading**


