

AG 11: The impact of internal and external factors in child second language acquisition

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A considerable amount of research has investigated the impact of internal and external factors in adult second language (L2) acquisition including e.g., transfer effects from the L1 and effects of age of onset (internal) and the effects of instructed vs. naturalistic exposure (external) (White, 2003). Research on child L2 acquisition is relatively limited compared to adult L2 acquisition, but in the last five years a growing number of studies has started to investigate child L2 acquisition, both in comparison to adult L2 acquisition (e.g., Blom, Polisenska, & Weerman, 2006; Schwartz, 2003; Unsworth, 2005) and to children with Specific Language Impairment (SLI) (e.g., Paradis, 2005; 2008; Paradis & Crago, 2003). Most studies have focused on language production, (e.g., Thoma & Tracy 2006), with a limited number investigating comprehension (Grueter, 2005; Schulz & Wenzel 2008), and on-line processing (Marinis, 2007; 2008). This workshop aims to bring together researchers conducting studies with L2 children in order to generate a discussion on the impact of internal and external factors in comprehension, production, and processing in child L2 acquisition. The following research questions will be addressed:

How do the properties of the L1 and the L2 interact in child L2 acquisition?

Are transfer effects limited to production or do they also appear in comprehension and processing strategies?

How does age of onset, years of exposure, quantity and quality of input affect child L2 acquisition and how do these factors interact with the age of the learners?

Are child L2 acquisition of morphology, syntax, and semantics affected in the same way by these internal and external factors?

Can individual variation in children be explained on the basis of external factors?

This workshop is relevant for researchers working on L2 acquisition in typically-developing children and children with SLI. We will invite papers investigating the impact of internal and/or external factors on child L2 acquisition of morphology, syntax, and semantics using a variety of tasks including production, comprehension, and on-line processing. This will provide a rich forum to address the impact of internal and external factors in L2 acquisition in a systematic way.