

# Child Language Acquisition

## Spring, 2019

Time: **Thursday 10:10-13:00**  
Classroom: Room C406, HSS Building  
Instructor: Chun-Chieh Hsu (許淳潔)  
Contact: [cchsu@mx.nthu.edu.tw](mailto:cchsu@mx.nthu.edu.tw) (by appointment, A531)

### ● Course Description

This course aims to introduce students the development of language in young children. We will look at various aspects of how children develop and acquire their native language, including phonology, morphology, semantics, syntax, and pragmatics. Important theories and issues in child language acquisition will be discussed, and various experimental methods will be introduced. The students will have also an opportunity to interact with little children and observe their language behaviors.

### ◆ Highlights of this course:

- ✓ *You will get to read and evaluate different theories proposed to explain how children acquire their mother tongues. This help you develop a deep understanding of language acquisition process! 😊*
- ✓ *You will get to watch several videos and learn many interesting experimental methods that are used to test children's language and cognitive ability! 😊*
- ✓ *You will get to interact with little kids and observe their language behaviors. Most importantly, you will have a chance to design your own experiment to test their language ability in a fun way! 😊*

### ● Textbook & Website

- *Understanding Child Language Acquisition (UCLA)*, Caroline Rowland, 2014, Routledge
- *Relevant handouts and supplementary materials will be provided.*
- **Course Website** – iLMS system <http://lms.nthu.edu.tw/>
- All announcements and reading/written assignments will be posted on the website.

### ● Requirements & Evaluation

<u>Class attendance and participation</u>	<u>10%</u>
<u>Reading and HW Learning Sheet</u>	<u>25%</u>
<u>Film Reflection (x2)</u>	<u>20%</u>
<u>Group Project Report</u>	<u>20%</u>
<u>Take-home Final Exam</u>	<u>25%</u>

● **Tentative Syllabus (subject to any necessary changes~~~)**

1	09/12	Course Orientation / Group List	
2	09/19	The Basics of Language Acquisition <i>(Film: Human Brain Development: Nature/Nurture)</i>	UCLA, Ch.1.
3	09/26	Communication Development in Infancy <i>(Film: The Baby Human series – To Relate)</i>	Development of Language, Ch.2
4	10/03	Acquiring the sounds of language <i>(Film: The Baby Human series – To Talk)</i>	UCLA, Ch.2
5	10/10	National Holiday! – A DAY OFF!	
6	10/17	Acquiring the Meaning of Words (I)	UCLA, Ch.3 (Sec. 3.1-3.3)
7	10/24	Acquiring the Meaning of Words (II)	UCLA, Ch.3 (Sec. 3.4-3.7)
8	10/31	Acquiring Syntax <i>(Film: Acquiring the Human Language - Part 1)</i> <i>(From Human Language Series Part II)</i>	UCLA, Ch.4
9	11/07	<b>Observation Session &amp; Discussion</b> <i>(Film: The Baby Human series – To Walk)</i>	
10	11/14	Acquiring Morphology <i>(Film: Acquiring the Human Language - Part 2)</i> <i>(From Human Language Series Part II)</i>	UCLA, Ch.5
11	11/21	Communicative Competence and Impairment <i>(Film: The Baby Human series – To Think)</i>	UCLA, Ch.6
12	11/28	Multilingual/Bilingual Language Acquisition	UCLA, Ch.7
13	12/05	<b>Take-Home Final Exam (No class!)</b>	
14	12/12	<b>Group Project Topic Discussion – coming up with questions and experiments</b>	
15	12/19	Testing young children with your experiments!	
16	12/26	Testing young children with your experiments!	
17	01/02	Group Project Presentation	
18	01/09	No class! Group Project Report DUE!	Group project report DUE