

# The Maturation Hypothesis

from "*Maturation and Growth of Grammar*" by Kenneth Wexler



## 1. Introduction

## 2. The Maturation Theory: Theory of the Deviations from Adult UG

**keywords:** Maturation Theory, Continuous Development (CD), Proto UG, Continuity Theory, Learning Delay (LD), Performance Delay (PD), Triggering Problem, UG-Constrained Maturation (UGCM), Maturation at the Interface

## 3. A Case Study of Maturation at the Interface: The Apparent Principle B Error

**keywords:** Binding Theory, Binding Principles, Principle A, Principle B, Governing Category, Anaphor, Pronominal, Coindexation, C-Command (Constituent-Command), Grounding Principle

## Maturation Hypothesis 1

### UG-Constrained Maturation (UGCM) and Continuous Development

**UG-constrained maturation (UCGM):**  
All child grammatical representations are available in UG

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## Maturation Hypothesis 2

### Maturation at the **Interface**

computational system of language (syntax)

| interface coordination

discourse / pragmatic / interpretive system of language

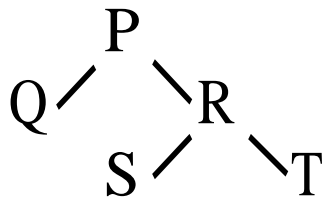
## The Binding Theory

### *Binding Principles* (Chomsky 1981)

- (1) *principle A*: An **anaphor** is **bound** in its governing category
- (2) *principle B*: A **pronominal** is **free** in its governing category

(3) X **binds** Y (where X and Y are nodes in a phrase structure) if and only if X **c-commands** Y, and X is **co-indexed** with Y.

(4) a node **c-commands** all its sister nodes and all the nodes dominated by its sister.



Q c-commands R, S, T

R c-commands Q

S c-commands T

T c-commands S

(4) X is **free** if and only if it is not bound.

## A Case Study of Maturation at the Interface: The Apparent Principle B Error

\*Cinderella's sister<sub>i</sub> pointed to her<sub>i</sub> .

Mama Bear<sub>i</sub> hugged her<sub>j</sub>.

\*Mama Bear<sub>i</sub> hugged her<sub>i</sub>.

Every bear<sub>i</sub> hugged her<sub>j</sub>.

\*Every bear<sub>i</sub> hugged her<sub>i</sub>.

### **The Grounding Principle:**

An NP must be grounded (the reference of an NP must be made clear)

This is Mama Bear<sub>i</sub> and this is Goldilocks<sub>j</sub>. Is Mama Bear<sub>i</sub> hugging her<sub>j</sub>?

\*This is Mama Bear<sub>i</sub> and this is Goldilocks<sub>j</sub>. Is Mama Bear<sub>i</sub> hugging her<sub>j</sub>?