

The Maturation Hypothesis

The Maturation Theory / Continuous developmental view (CD)

Some properties of UG **continue** to **develop** in children, eventually reaching full adult UG. The development is principled as a consequence of the genetic program of language.

Child UG = Proto UG = PUG

UG-constrained maturation (UGCM): All child grammatical representations are available in UG.

Maturation at the Interface: The interface coordination of the computational system of language (syntax) and the discourse / pragmatic / interpretive system of language develops over time.

The Continuity Theory

Children have UG from the beginning. All principles are available from birth, but they need to be **triggered** by input data.

Learning Delay (LD): Children have not learned language-specific properties yet.

Performance Delay (PD): Children have some kind of performance problems.

Triggering Problem:

Why should a particular linguistic property only be learnable at a late age when data is available at a much earlier age?

The Binding Theory

The Binding Theory is concerned with the referential possibilities for various pronouns.

Binding Principles (Chomsky 1981)

Principle A: An anaphor is bound in its governing category.

Principle B: A pronominal is free in its governing category.

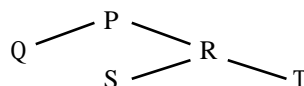
Governing Category: The governing category can be taken to be the clause that contains the anaphor or the pronominal, if they are in object position.

Coindexation:

If two elements are coindexed, they have the same reference.

C-command (Constituent-command):

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

Bibliography

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