

WORD ACQUISITION: UNRAVELING THE MYSTERY OF HOW WE LEARN LANGUAGE

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Annotation: This article gives information about Word acquisition, the process of learning and understanding the meaning and use of words, lies at the heart of this journey. This exploration delves into the various facets of word acquisition, examining the cognitive mechanisms, developmental stages, and influencing factors that shape how we build our vocabulary and master the art of communication.

Key words: language acquisition , vocabulary development cognitive mechanisms, developmental stages, receptive language, babbling.

Аннотация: В данной статье дана информация об овладении словом, процесс изучения и понимания значения и использования слов лежит в основе этого путешествия. Это исследование углубляется в различные аспекты усвоения слов, изучает когнитивные механизмы, стадии развития и факторы, влияющие на то, как мы формируем наш словарный запас и осваиваем искусство общения.

Ключевые слова: овладение языком, когнитивные механизмы развития словарного запаса, этапы развития, рецептивная речь, лепет.

Sõz boshi: Ushbu maqolada so'zlarni o'zlashtirish haqida ma'lumot berilgan, so'zlarning ma'nosi va ishlatilishini o'rganish va tushunish jarayoni ushbu sayohatning asosini tashkil etadi. Ushbu tadqiqot so'zni o'zlashtirishning turli jihatlarini o'rganadi, kognitiv mexanizmlarni, rivojlanish bosqichlarini va bizning lug'atimizni qanday shakllantirishimiz va muloqot san'atini egallashimizga ta'sir qiluvchi omillarni o'rganadi.

Kalit so'zlar: tilni o'zlashtirish, lug'at rivojlanishining kognitiv mexanizmlari, rivojlanish bosqichlari, retseptiv nutq, g'o'ng'irlash.

Introduction:

The human ability to acquire and use language is a remarkable feat, setting us apart from other species. From babbling infants to eloquent orators, our journey with language is a complex and fascinating process. Word acquisition, the process of learning and understanding the meaning and use of words, lies at the heart of this journey. This exploration delves into the various facets of word acquisition, examining

the cognitive mechanisms, developmental stages, and influencing factors that shape how we build our vocabulary and master the art of communication.

-Stages of Word Acquisition: A Developmental Odyssey

The process of word acquisition unfolds in stages, marked by significant milestones and evolving cognitive abilities:

Early Stages: In the first year of life, infants begin to develop receptive language skills, recognizing familiar words and sounds. Babbling, a precursor to speech, allows them to experiment with sounds and mouth movements.

One-Word Stage: Around the age of one, children typically enter the one-word stage, uttering single words to express thoughts, needs, or observations. These early words often represent objects or people in their immediate environment.

Two-Word Stage: As children approach their second year, they begin combining words into simple two-word phrases, such as "mommy go" or "more milk." This stage marks the emergence of expressive language and the ability to convey basic ideas.

Vocabulary Explosion: Between the ages of two and five, children experience a remarkable surge in vocabulary development, acquiring new words at an astonishing pace. This "vocabulary explosion" reflects their growing cognitive abilities and exposure to a wider range of words and concepts.

School-Age and Beyond: Word acquisition continues throughout life, as individuals encounter new words through education, reading, and social interactions. Vocabulary development becomes more nuanced, encompassing abstract concepts, figurative language, and specialized terminology.

-Mechanisms of Word Learning: Cracking the Code

Several cognitive mechanisms contribute to word acquisition:

Statistical Learning: Children have an innate ability to detect patterns in language, including the frequency and co-occurrence of sounds and words. This statistical learning helps them segment speech streams and identify individual words.

Social Interaction: Interactions with caregivers and other speakers play a crucial role in word learning. Children learn through observation, imitation, and feedback, gradually understanding the meaning and use of words in different contexts.

Cross-Situational Learning: Children can generalize word meanings across different situations. For example, a child who learns the word "dog" at home can apply it to dogs encountered in other settings.

Fast Mapping: Children can often infer the meaning of a new word based on limited exposure and contextual cues. This "fast mapping" ability allows them to quickly expand their vocabulary.

Factors Influencing Word Acquisition: Shaping the Journey

Several factors can influence the rate and depth of word acquisition:

Language Exposure: The amount and quality of language exposure a child receives significantly impact their vocabulary development. Rich language environments with frequent interactions and diverse vocabulary foster word learning.

Socioeconomic Status: Children from higher socioeconomic backgrounds tend to have larger vocabularies due to greater access to educational resources, books, and enriching experiences.

Individual Differences: Children vary in their cognitive abilities, learning styles, and motivation, which can influence their rate of word acquisition.

Language Impairments: Some children may experience language delays or disorders that affect their ability to acquire and use words effectively. Early intervention and specialized support can help address these challenges.

-The Power of Words: Unlocking a World of Possibilities

Word acquisition is an essential foundation for language development and communication. A rich vocabulary empowers individuals to express themselves effectively, understand the world around them, and engage in meaningful interactions. By understanding the processes and factors influencing word acquisition, we can create supportive environments that foster language learning and unlock the power of words for all.

While the previous information provides a foundational understanding of word acquisition, let's explore some additional nuances and considerations:

The Role of Morphology:

Morphology, the study of word formation, plays a significant role in word acquisition, especially as children progress beyond the early stages. Understanding morphemes, the smallest units of meaning in a language, allows individuals to decipher the meaning of unfamiliar words by recognizing roots, prefixes, and suffixes. For instance, knowing the meaning of the prefix "un-" helps a child understand that "unhappy" is the opposite of "happy."

The Impact of Reading:

Reading exposes individuals to a vast array of vocabulary and diverse language structures. As children develop reading skills, they encounter new words in context, which aids in comprehension and retention. Regular reading habits contribute significantly to vocabulary expansion and overall language proficiency.

The Influence of Bilingualism:

Bilingual individuals navigate the complexities of acquiring vocabulary in two or more languages. Research suggests that bilingualism can enhance cognitive flexibility, metalinguistic awareness (understanding how language works), and problem-solving skills. While there may be some initial mixing of languages during early stages, bilingual children generally develop age-appropriate language skills in both languages.

The Importance of Context:

Words rarely exist in isolation; their meaning is often dependent on context. Children learn to interpret word meanings based on the surrounding words, the situation, and nonverbal cues such as facial expressions and gestures. Understanding context is crucial for effective communication and avoiding misunderstandings.

The Challenge of Figurative Language:

As children's language skills become more sophisticated, they encounter figurative language, such as metaphors, similes, and idioms. These expressions require a deeper understanding of language beyond the literal meaning of words. Exposure to figurative language through stories, poems, and everyday conversations helps children develop these interpretive skills.

The Role of Technology:

In today's digital age, technology plays an increasingly significant role in language exposure and learning. Educational apps, interactive games, and online resources can provide engaging platforms for vocabulary development. However, it's crucial to ensure a balance between screen time and real-world interactions that provide rich language input and opportunities for social communication.

Lifelong Learning:

Word acquisition is a lifelong journey that continues beyond childhood and formal education. Engaging in intellectually stimulating activities, reading widely, and pursuing new interests expose individuals to new vocabulary and concepts, enriching their understanding of the world and enhancing their ability to communicate effectively.

Conclusion:

Word acquisition, the cornerstone of language development, is a multifaceted and dynamic process that unfolds throughout our lives. From the babbling of infants to the nuanced expressions of seasoned communicators, our journey with words reflects our cognitive growth, social interactions, and the ever-expanding tapestry of human knowledge.

Understanding the complexities of word acquisition allows us to appreciate the remarkable human capacity for language and to foster environments that support language learning for individuals of all ages and backgrounds. As we continue to explore the mysteries of how we learn and use words, we unlock the enduring power of language to connect, inspire, and shape our world.

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