Rich Languages from Poor Inputs
A Workshop in Honor of Carol Chomsky*
MIT Stata Center, Room 32–123

Program

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 11

09:00am–09:15am Welcome
Irene Heim, Robert Berwick, and Massimo Piattelli-Palmarini

09:15am–11:00am The robustness of early acquisition
Chair: Samuel Jay Keyser (MIT)

09:15am–09:55am Lila Gleitman (U Penn) and Barbara Landau (Johns Hopkins University)
Every child an isolate: nature’s experiments in language learning

09:55am–10:35am Karin Stromswold (Rutgers University)
Lessons from a mute child

10:35am–11:15am Discussants: Susan Carey (Harvard University) and Suzanne Flynn (MIT)

11:15am–11:30am Coffee

11:30am–01:15pm The acquisition of syntax (1)
Chair: Shigeru Miyagawa (MIT)

11:30am–12:10am Adriana Belletti and Luigi Rizzi (University of Siena, Italy)
Ways of avoiding intervention: the development of object relatives, passive and control

12:10pm–12:50pm Janet Dean-Fodor and Xuan-Nga Cao Kam (CUNY)
Children’s acquisition of syntax: simple models are too simple

12:50pm–01:10pm Discussant: Sabine Iatridou (MIT)

01:10pm–02:30pm Lunch

* The workshop is partially subsidized by NSF Grant BCS-0951620, the MIT Department of Linguistics and Philosophy, and the Cognitive Science Program of the University of Arizona.
02:30pm–04:15pm  The acquisition of syntax (2)
Chair: Michael Kenstowicz (MIT)

02:30pm–03:10pm  Ken Wexler (MIT)
Phases in the development of Tough and Promise

03:15pm–03:55pm  Itziar Laka (University of the Basque Country)
Complexity at the interface of processing and grammar

03:55pm–04:15pm  Discussant: Adriana Belletti (University of Siena)

04:15pm–04:30pm  Coffee

04:30pm–06:15pm  Broadening the picture: Universals and specificities in language acquisition
Chair: Morris Halle (MIT)

04:30pm–05:10pm  Thomas G. Bever (University of Arizona)
Three implications of differentiating analytic and constructive processes in language learning and behavior

05:15pm–05:45pm  Massimo Piattelli-Palmarini (University of Arizona)
Defending the poverty of the stimulus from the neo-Darwinian critiques

05:45pm–06:15pm  General discussion
SATURDAY, DECEMBER 12

09:00am–11:15am  Broadening the picture: brain correlates, genes and sounds  
Chair: Gad Geiger (MIT)

09:00am–09:40am  Susan Curtiss (UCLA)  
*Modularity revisited: evidence for the independence of language in development and breakdown*

09:40am–10:20am  Laura-Ann Petitto (University of Toronto)  
*Insights into phonology and contemporary genes, brain, and behavioral studies of phonological processing in infants*

10:20am–11:00am  Albert M. Galaburda (Harvard Medical School)  
*Neurogenetic contribution to developmental language disorders*

11:00am–11:15am  Discussant: Massimo Piatelli-Palmarini (University of Arizona)

11:15am–11:30am  Coffee

11:30am–12:30pm  Broadening the picture: Phonology, morphology and poetry  
Chair: Donca Steriade (MIT)

11:30am–12:10pm  Morris Halle (MIT) and Samuel Jay Keyser (MIT)  
*Reversal in poetry*

12:10pm–12:30pm  General discussion

12:30pm–02:30pm  Lunch

02:30pm–04:00pm  Broadening the picture: Poverty of the stimulus: conceptual and methodological issues  
Chair: Irene Heim (MIT)

02:30pm–03:10pm  Noam Chomsky (MIT)  
*Poverty of the stimulus revisited: recent challenges reconsidered*

03:10pm–03:50pm  Charles Yang and Julie Ann Legate (UPenn)  
*On early and late language*

03:50pm–04:10pm  Discussant: Luigi Rizzi (University of Siena)

04:10pm–04:30pm  Coffee
04:30pm–06:30pm  Broadening the picture: Spelling, reading and the arts
Chair: Susan Carey (Harvard University)

04:30pm–05:10pm  Charles Read (University of Wisconsin, Madison) and Rebecca Treiman (Washington University at St. Louis)
Children's invented spelling: What have we learned in forty years?

04:30pm–05:10pm  MaryAnne Wolf and Stephanie Gottwald (Tufts University)
“Words Move, Will Not Stay Still”: How insights into child language are changing the acquisition of written language

5:10pm–05:50pm  Merryl Goldberg (California State University, San Marcos)
The arts as language: invention, identity, and learning

5:50pm–06:30pm  Discussants: Wayne O’Neil (MIT) and Catherine Snow (Harvard University)

Wrap-up and conclusion