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From communication to languageâ€™a psychological perspective

Dedicated to Roman Jakobson on his eightieth birthday

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Abstract

Any realistic account of language acquisition must take into account the manner in which the child passes from pre-speech communication to the use of language proper. For it can be shown that many of the major organizing features of syntax, semantics, pragmatics, and even phonology have important precursors and prerequisites in the prespeech communicative acts of infants. Illustrations of such precursors are examined in four different domains: The mother's mode of interpreting the infant's communicative intent; the development of joint referential devices en route to deixis; the child's developing strategy for enlisting aid in joint activity; the transformation of topic-comment organization in prespeech to predication proper. Finally, the conjecture is explored whether the child's knowledge of the requirements of action and interaction might provide the basis for the initial development of grammar.

Toute approche réaliste du langage, se doit de rendre compte du passage de la communication par le langage de l'enfant à l'utilisation de la langue proprement parler. Pour cela, on peut montrer qu'il existe de nombreuses bases, réalisables ou nécessaires aux traits organisationnels de la syntaxe, de la sémantique, de la pragmatique et même de la phonologie, dans les activités langagières des enfants. Des illustrations de ces bases réalisables sont étudiées ici dans 4 domaines différents: le mode d'interprétation, par la mère des intentions de communication de l'enfant, le développement de la combinaison des référentiels, rendant le langage conforme à l'environnement, l'évolution de stratégies permettant l'utilisation de l'activité conjointe au langage, la transformation d'une organisation de type topic-comment à la prédication.

En dernier lieu on propose la conjecture suivante: la connaissance, par l'enfant des besoins de l'action et de l'interaction peut elle fournir la base à l'élaboration initiale de la grammaire.



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From communication to language – A psychological perspective, the presented lexical-semantic analysis is psycholinguistic in its basis, but the unitary state tends to be an experimental court, with the male figure being placed to the right of the female.

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