



Signal to Syntax: Bootstrapping From Speech To Grammar in Early Acquisition

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Signal to Syntax: Bootstrapping From Speech To Grammar in Early Acquisition From Psychology Press

In the beginning, before there are words, or syntax, or discourse, there is speech. Speech is an infant's gateway to language. Without exposure to speech, no language--or at most only a feeble facsimile of language--develops, regardless of how rich a child's biological endowment for language learning may be. But little is given directly in speech--not words, for example, as anyone who has ever listened to fluent conversation in an unfamiliar language can attest. Rather, words and phrases, or rudimentary categories--or whatever other information is required for syntactic and semantic analyses to begin operating--must be pulled from speech through an infant's developing perceptual capacities. By the end of the first year, an infant can segment at least some words from fluent speech. Beyond this, how impoverished or rich an infant's representations of input may be remains largely unknown. Clearly, in the debate over determinants of early language acquisition, the input speech stream has too often been offhandedly dismissed as a potential source of information.

This volume brings together internationally-known scholars from a range of disciplines--linguistics, psychology, cognitive and computer science, and acoustics --who share common interests in how speech, in its phonological, prosodic, distributional, and statistical properties, may encode information useful for early language learning, and how such information may be deciphered by very young children. These scholars offer a spectrum of viewpoints on the possibility that aspects of speech may provide bootstraps for language learning; contribute important, state-of-the-art findings across a variety of relevant domains; and illuminate critical directions for future inquiry. The publication of this volume represents a significant step in renewing the bonds between two fields that have long been sundered--speech perception and language acquisition.

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Editorial Review

Review

Signal to Syntax makes an important contribution by summarizing a growing body of work, emerging from a variety of disciplines, which documents the feasibility of the phonological bootstrapping hypothesis.

—*Contemporary Psychology*

...the editors have done us a service in stimulating and producing this theoretically well delimited yet diverse volume. The rich range of empirical and linguistic analyses here, may be expected to influence the language acquisition literature for many years to come.

—*Child Language*

...a most important theoretical contribution to child language study. It presents a coherent and comprehensive series of chapters that all takes as their starting point an attempt to unravel how the adult speech that is addressed to young children might lead to their acquisition of the first language.

—*TESL-EJ*

...this is clearly an impressive collection that deals with one of the greatest linguistic puzzles of our time. Given the status of the syntax/LF and syntax/PF interfaces in recent minimalist syntax, it seems unlikely that questions related to the integration of semantic and phonological cues to syntactic structure will lessen in import. The editors deserve congratulations for producing such a fine work.

—*Journal of Linguistics*

...the volume is well-organized and clearly written. This publication is essential reading not only for those interested in phonological development but also for psycholinguistics who investigate the acquisition of morphosyntax.

—*The Phonetician*

A very useful volume, relatively well integrated for this type of collective work, tapping a problem that has become increasingly central in the last years.

—*Anuario De Psicologia*

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Rose Nguyen:

In this 21st century, people become competitive in each way. By being competitive now, people have to do something to make themselves survive, being in the middle of the crowded place and noticed by surrounding. One thing that often many people have underestimated that for a while is reading. Yes, by reading a book your ability to survive is then having a chance to stand out than others is high. For yourself who want to start reading some sort of book, we give you that *Signal to Syntax: Bootstrapping From Speech To Grammar in Early Acquisition* book as nice and daily reading reserve. Why, because this book is more than just a book.

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Russell Stringer:

Spent a free the perfect time to be fun activity to accomplish! A lot of people spent their sparetime with their family, or their particular friends. Usually they accomplishing activity like watching television, going to beach, or picnic from the park. They actually doing same every week. Do you feel it? Do you wish to something different to fill your own personal free time/ holiday? May be reading a book may be option to fill your free of charge time/ holiday. The first thing you will ask may be what kinds of guide that you should read. If you want to consider look for book, may be the publication untitled Signal to Syntax: Bootstrapping From Speech To Grammar in Early Acquisition can be excellent book to read. May be it could be best activity to you.

Roger Thomas:

A lot of people always spent their free time to vacation or perhaps go to the outside with them household or their friend. Were you aware? Many a lot of people spent they free time just watching TV, as well as playing video games all day long. If you would like try to find a new activity this is look different you can read any book. It is really fun for you. If you enjoy the book which you read you can spent the entire day to reading a book. The book Signal to Syntax: Bootstrapping From Speech To Grammar in Early Acquisition it is quite good to read. There are a lot of folks that recommended this book. These people were enjoying reading this book. If you did not have enough space to deliver this book you can buy typically the e-book. You can m0ore simply to read this book out of your smart phone. The price is not too costly but this book provides high quality.

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