Contents

List of figures xi
List of tables xii
Preface xiii
List of abbreviations xvii

1. The quest for the LAD 1
   1.1 Two types of language acquisition – One kind of language making capacity? 1
   1.2 Relating first and second language acquisition 2
   1.3 Searching for the questions to ask 9
   1.4 Suggested readings and topics for discussion 11

2. First language development: Universal Grammar as the centrepiece of the human language making capacity 13
   2.1 Universal Grammar and the LAD 13
   2.2 Milestones of first language development 21
   2.3 Functional categories in early child grammar 37
   2.4 Parameters in first language development 49
   2.5 Suggested readings and topics for discussion 60

3. Obvious (observable) similarities and differences between first and second language acquisition: Developmental sequences 62
   3.1 Observable phenomena 62
   3.2 Acquisition orders: Grammatical morphemes 63
   3.3 Developmental sequences: The syntax of negation 73
   3.4 A preliminary balance 86
   3.5 Suggested readings and topics for discussion 87

4. The initial state and beyond 90
   4.1 Transitional interlanguage grammars? 90
   4.2 The initial state of L2 grammatical knowledge 91
   4.3 Transfer of knowledge or knowledgeable transfer? 109
   4.4 Beyond the initial state: Approximative systems 119
   4.5 Suggested readings and topics for discussion 137
5. Developing grammatical knowledge: Parameter setting and inductive learning

5.1 Access to UG principles in L2 acquisition 139
5.2 Parameter (re)setting 144
5.3 Inductive learning 170
5.4 Some fundamental differences between L1 and L2 acquisition 191
5.5 Suggested readings and topics for discussion 199

6. Neural maturation and age: Opening and closing windows of opportunities

6.1 Sensitive phases for language acquisition 202
6.2 Child second language acquisition 211
6.3 Syntactic processing in the second language 223
6.4 A note on ultimate attainment in second language acquisition 233
6.5 Suggested readings and topics for discussion 238

7. A (tentative) theory of language acquisition – L1, 2L1 and L2

7.1 Similarities and differences across types of language acquisition 240
7.2 Exploring the limits of the LAD 246
7.3 The hybrid nature of second language knowledge 251

Glossary 256
Notes 265
References 270
Index 295