

## First Language Acquisition

How do young children learn language? When does this process start? What does language acquisition involve? Children are exposed to language from birth, surrounded by knowledgeable speakers who offer feedback and provide extensive practice every day. Through conversation and joint activities children master the language being used around them. This fully revised third edition of Eve V. Clark's best-selling textbook offers comprehensive coverage of language acquisition, from a baby's first sounds, to a child's increasing skill in negotiating, explaining, and entertaining with language. This book, drawing together the most recent findings in the field, illustrated with examples from a wide range of experimental and observational studies, including the author's own diary observations, presents an essential and comprehensive guide to first language acquisition. Fascinating reading for students of linguistics, developmental psychology, and cognitive science.

EVE V. CLARK is a Member of the Netherlands Academy of Sciences (KNAW), and a Fellow of the Association for Psychological Science, of the Linguistic Society of America, and of the American Association for the Advancement of Science. Her books include *Psychology & Language* (with H. H. Clark), *The Ontogenesis of Meaning*, *The Acquisition of Romance*, *The Lexicon in Acquisition*, *Constructions in Acquisition* (with B. F. Kelly), and *Experience, Variation, and Generalization* (with I. Arnon). Her research has involved both observational and experimental studies aimed at discovering what language children understand and what they produce at different stages in development.

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THIRD EDITION

EVE V. CLARK

*Stanford University*



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To Damon Alistair  
for all his talk

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