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Objectives
Research relating phonological acquisition and phonological theory has flowered since the introduction of Optimality Theory. In this course, we will discuss current issues in phonological acquisition and learnability, and conduct our own empirical investigations. We will focus on production, since last year’s Ling 830 covered perception in depth.

Requirements
Registered participants must:
1. Complete all required readings before class, and be prepared to critically discuss them
2. Present one of the readings to the class
3. Present a data study:  
   A small-scale corpus-based study of a phenomenon in first language acquisition  
   Topics should emerge from class discussion; the schedule below contains some ideas
4. Complete a term paper (and abstract, due March 25):  
   a. A larger-scale corpus-based study of a phenomenon in first language acquisition  
   b. A pilot experiment in first or second language acquisition  
   c. A learnability study  
   d. A reanalysis of some data from first or second language acquisition
5. Present the term paper

Non-credit participants are encouraged to do as much of 1-3 as they can

Schedule
This is schedule is subject to change, depending on participants’ interest, and how our discussion proceeds

   Data study 1: Emergence of complex prosody (could also be Feb. 19)
   Data study 2: Cluster reduction in Smith, Fikkert/Levelt
   Data study 3: Special faithfulness and developmental sequence

   Data study 4: Cluster and coda acquisition

   Data study 5: Stress and manner effects on English CH
   Data study 6: Cross-linguistic differences in CH

March 18 - No class - Spring Break


April 22 - No class - Monday schedule

April 29  The Initial State in L2 Acquisition: Transfer and the Emergence of the Unmarked Broselow et al. 1998, Davidson et al. 2004

May 6  Beyond the Initial State in L2 Acquisition: The “Interlanguage”

May 13  Presentations

Other possible topics:
Historical change and acquisition
Artificial language learning
Lexical avoidance (see Schwartz and Leonard)
Computational implementations of constraint ranking algorithms
Covert contrast (see Scobbie et al. 2000)
Metathesis (see Velleman 1996, Ingram 1974)
Frequency (see Boersma and colleagues, Demuth and colleagues, Zamuner 2003, Ingram 1988)
References


Demuth, Katherine and Mark Johnson. 2003. Truncation to Subminimal Words in Early French. Ms, Brown University


