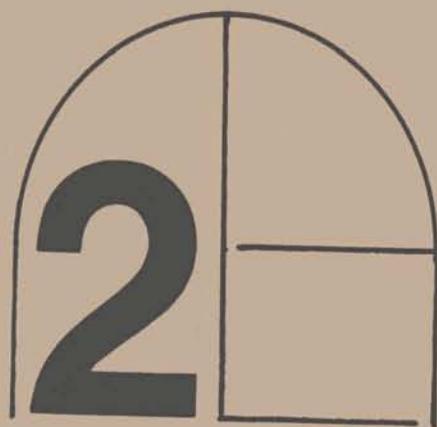


STUDIES IN
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ANNOUNCING...

STUDIES IN SECOND LANGUAGE ACQUISITION

The field of applied linguistics has been profoundly modified by an extension of the disciplines that inform and support it. This extension has been so far-reaching that the term applied linguistics no longer describes the multifarious activities that bear its name. Applied linguistics is no longer an area of research and development linking general linguistics and second language pedagogy, but has become the intersection between a broad array of social sciences and a wide variety of endeavors whose *fil conducteur* is language. Applied linguistics, then, encompasses applied psycholinguistics, applied sociolinguistics, applied ethnolinguistics and relates these fields to first and second language learning and teaching and to the complex cluster of endeavors subsumed by language planning: the elaboration of spelling systems, language standardization, language surveys, linguistic instrumentalization, etc.

A significant development of the last decade is the emergence of a central, theoretically-oriented core in applied linguistics. This theoretical core extends in three directions. First, a model of second language acquisition has been developed in conjunction with the notion of interlanguage or approximative systems that recognizes the primacy of general principles grounded in universals of language perception and language expression that guide the restructuring of input data on the part of the learner. This approach is in sharp contrast to earlier reliance on the notion of interference based on contrastive analysis, although the universalistic, restructuring approach does not necessarily preclude transfer from the first language. The dominance of the universalistic, restructuring approach has fostered a link between second language learning and the field of pidginization and creolization. As workers in the field of second language acquisition have shifted their primary data base from adolescent and adult formal second language learning to more natural types of second language learning situations, they have focused on phenomena that arise as a consequence of language contact. Pidginization and creolization are extreme cases of linguistic restructuring arising from language contact and they show more clearly the operation of universal processes.

A second direction in current research in language acquisition is a broadening of scope beyond narrowly defined linguistic competence. Second language learning is viewed as involving functional development and the acquisition of rules of language use, that is, of communicative competence. The sociolinguistic context in which language acquisition takes place and the functions to which developing competence in the second language is applied are considered to

play a determining role and are viewed as meriting study in their own right. The third direction, which stems from the second, involves extending the scope of observation beyond the sentence to include discourse and relations between sound and meaning that hitherto have been considered extra-linguistic.

There are few periodicals whose central concern is language acquisition. Contributions to applied linguistics are conspicuously absent from the many journals devoted to general linguistics and they usually appear in periodicals whose central focus is methodological or pedagogical. Recently, journals have been founded whose scope is defined as one of the so-called hyphenated areas of linguistics. In particular there are now several journals that cover the field of sociolinguistics, psycholinguistics, bilingualism, and language planning. The increase of theoretical sophistication in the field of language acquisition and the constantly growing number of researchers warrants the launching of a specialized publication.

Studies in Second Language Acquisition (SSLA) addresses itself to the study of the process of acquisition of a second language and the relationship between the development of linguistic competence and communicative competence in a second language. Priority will be given to contributions of a general theoretical and methodological interest, as well as to research reports. SSLA defines itself as a publication channel international in scope and will accept contributions in English, French, German, or Spanish. However its primary working language will be English. As soon as SSLA is well established, it will publish book reviews and information of professional interest.

Studies in Second Language Acquisition will appear at least twice a year, in November and May. It is produced and distributed by the Indiana University Linguistic Club, but editorial responsibility is vested in an independent review board. SSLA also receives the sponsorship of the Committee for Research and Development in Language Instruction at Indiana University. Production and distribution by the IULC insures speedy publication at a relatively low cost. SSLA guarantees publication of all accepted articles within a one year period after submission of final typescript.

EDITOR'S NOTE

The first two numbers of *Studies in Second Language Acquisition* will contain the proceedings of the Fourth and Sixth sessions of the annual Neuchâtel Colloquium on Theoretical Issues in Applied Linguistics. Launched by S. Pit Corder of the University of Edinburgh and Eddy Roulet of the University of Neuchâtel, the Colloquia held in the serene ambience of the lake city of Neuchâtel, Switzerland, have gathered a small group of applied linguists from a variety of European nations; beginning in 1974, North American specialists whose research or other scholarly activities took them to Europe also participated. Except for local faculty, only authors of papers attended the colloquia; thus the total number of participants seldom exceeds twenty. Papers are distributed in advance and the three days of the Colloquium are devoted to in-depth comment and discussion of the papers submitted. More than any other gathering of applied linguists, the Neuchâtel Colloquia address the central theoretical issue that have been identified as the focus of *Studies in Second Language Acquisition*; and it is fitting that this new vehicle for applied linguists help disseminate the results of the Colloquia.

THEORETICAL APPROACHES IN APPLIED LINGUISTICS
4th Neuchâtel Colloquium in Applied Linguistics
(28th-30th May 1975)

S. P. Corder
E. Roulet (éds)