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儿童句法结构的获得

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本文根据三名北京普通话儿童 0;11 至 3;1 的自然产出语料,从普遍语法的角度,探究早期儿童句法结构的获得与发展机制。本文的研究发现,儿童在独词阶段时,就开始外显(externalize)其内在的抽象句法结构;实词的产出是 VP 结构的外显,而叹词的产出则是 CP 结构的外显。在双词和多词阶段,儿童内在 CP 层内的成分会比内在 IP 层内的成分更早地外显。前者外显为句末语气词,后者外显为体貌助词或情态助动词。儿童优先外显 CP 层的句末语气词与 VP 层的动词或名词,并以此二者构建所谓的双词句。本文的研究显示,儿童句法结构的外显或浮现,是一个从两端(CP 层和 VP 层)向中间(IP 层)双向生长的过程。这一双向生长过程不仅符合汉语儿童语言发展的特点,也得到德语、西班牙语、意大利语、希腊语等形态丰富语言的儿童产出语料的支持。

The Growth of Children's Syntax

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This paper investigates the early acquisition of syntactic structures based on longitudinal data from three Beijing Mandarin-speaking children aged between 0;11 and 3;1. It is found that children at the single-word stage could use nouns, verbs and interjections, which may be taken as evidence instantiating their acquisition of VP and CP respectively. It is also found that children at the two-word stage begin to combine sentence-final particles with VP elements, whereas IP elements such as aspect markers and modal auxiliaries appear later at the multi-word stage. These facts show that VP and CP emerge earlier than IP in children's language development, as predicted by the Bidirectional Growth Model of Child language acquisition (Hu, 2016).