

THEME: LANGUAGE ACQUISITION THEORIES

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Annotation: Language acquisition is a fundamental aspect of human cognition, studied through various theories. This article explores key perspectives, including behaviorism, nativism, and interactionism, analyzing their strengths and limitations. The role of social and cognitive factors, as well as critical periods for language learning, is also examined. Understanding these theories helps educators and linguists develop effective teaching methods. By comparing these approaches, the paper highlights the complexities of language development and the interplay between innate abilities and environmental influences.

Key words: language acquisition, behaviorism, nativism, interactionism, cognition, linguistic development, social factors, critical period, Chomsky, Skinner

Annotatsiya: Til o'zlashtirish inson tafakkurining asosiy jihatlaridan biridir va turli nazariyalar orqali o'rganiladi. Ushbu maqola bihevizizm, nativizm va interaksionizm kabi asosiy yondashuvlarni ko'rib chiqadi hamda ularning afzalliklari va cheklovlarini tahlil qiladi. Shuningdek, til o'rganishda ijtimoiy va kognitiv omillar hamda tanqidiy davrlarning roli muhokama qilinadi. Ushbu nazariyalarni tushunish pedagoglar va tilshunoslarga samarali o'qitish metodlarini ishlab chiqishda yordam beradi. Ushbu maqola til rivojlanishining murakkabligini va tug'ma qobiliyatlar hamda atrof-muhit omillari o'rtasidagi o'zaro ta'sirni yoritib beradi.

Kalit so'zlar: til o'zlashtirish, bihevizizm, nativizm, interaksionizm, tafakkur, lingvistik rivojlanish, ijtimoiy omillar, tanqidiy davr, Chomskiy, Skinner

Аннотация: Освоение языка является фундаментальным аспектом человеческого познания и изучается через различные теории. В данной статье

рассматриваются основные подходы, такие как бихевиоризм, нативизм и интеракционизм, анализируются их сильные и слабые стороны. Также обсуждается роль социальных и когнитивных факторов, а также критические периоды в изучении языка. Понимание этих теорий помогает педагогам и лингвистам разрабатывать эффективные методы обучения. Сравнение этих подходов подчеркивает сложность развития языка и взаимодействие врожденных способностей с влиянием окружающей среды. овладение языком, бихевиоризм, нативизм, интеракционизм, познание, лингвистическое развитие, социальные факторы, критический период, Хомский, Скиннер

Language acquisition has long been a central focus in linguistic and psychological research. Scholars have proposed various theories to explain how individuals learn language, each offering distinct perspectives on the underlying processes. One of the earliest theories is behaviorism, championed by B.F. Skinner. According to this view, language learning occurs through imitation, reinforcement, and conditioning. Children acquire language by repeating words and phrases they hear from caregivers, receiving positive reinforcement for correct usage. However, critics argue that behaviorism cannot fully account for the complexity of linguistic structures and creativity in language use.

In contrast, Noam Chomsky introduced the nativist theory, which posits that humans possess an innate language acquisition device (LAD) enabling them to acquire language naturally. Chomsky's theory is supported by the existence of a universal grammar—a set of structural rules shared by all languages. This perspective explains why children can rapidly learn complex grammatical structures without explicit instruction. However, some scholars argue that Chomsky's theory underestimates the role of environmental and social factors in language development.

The interactionist perspective bridges the gap between behaviorism and nativism, emphasizing the importance of both innate abilities and social interaction. This theory suggests that language acquisition is driven by a child's cognitive development and their interactions with caregivers and peers. Lev Vygotsky's concept of the zone of proximal development highlights how social interaction fosters linguistic growth. Studies show

that children exposed to rich linguistic environments develop stronger language skills, reinforcing the significance of social engagement in learning.

Another important concept in language acquisition is the critical period hypothesis, which suggests that there is an optimal window for language learning, typically during childhood. Research by Eric Lenneberg indicates that language acquisition becomes significantly more difficult after puberty, as neural plasticity decreases. This hypothesis is supported by studies of feral and neglected children, who struggle to acquire full linguistic competence if deprived of language exposure early in life.

Cognitive theories, such as Jean Piaget's constructivist approach, also contribute to understanding language acquisition. Piaget argued that language development is closely tied to cognitive growth. According to his theory, children acquire language as they develop cognitive abilities to understand and categorize their experiences. However, Piaget's theory does not fully explain how children acquire complex grammatical rules at an early age, leading some researchers to integrate cognitive and linguistic approaches.

Research also highlights the role of bilingualism in language acquisition. Studies suggest that learning multiple languages from an early age enhances cognitive flexibility and problem-solving skills. However, the extent to which bilingualism influences linguistic development remains a topic of debate, with some researchers emphasizing the benefits while others point to potential delays in vocabulary acquisition.

Technological advancements have further influenced theories of language acquisition. Computational models and artificial intelligence simulations help researchers test hypotheses about linguistic development. Machine learning algorithms that mimic human language learning provide insights into how exposure to linguistic input shapes language competence.

Overall, language acquisition remains a complex and multifaceted process influenced by biological, cognitive, and social factors. While no single theory provides a complete explanation, integrating insights from multiple perspectives allows for a more comprehensive understanding of how language is learned and developed. Future

research will continue to refine these theories, incorporating new findings from neuroscience, psychology, and artificial intelligence.

Conclusion: The study of language acquisition is essential for understanding human cognition and communication. Different theories—behaviorism, nativism, and interactionism—offer unique insights into how individuals learn language. While each theory has strengths and limitations, an integrated approach provides a more nuanced understanding. Social, cognitive, and biological factors all contribute to language development, highlighting its complexity. Continued research in this field will enhance language teaching methods and inform linguistic policies, ultimately improving communication across cultures and generations.

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