

Experience and Variation in Learning a First Language

Announcing the 33rd Child Language Research Forum, 10-12 July 2009, to be held during the Linguistic Society of America's Summer Institute, UC Berkeley—

Recent developments in first language acquisition research have deepened our knowledge about how learners approach the task of acquisition. The focus of this meeting will be on how experience and variation shape learning; how they shape the paths that children follow, the mechanisms they rely on, and our understanding of what they need to learn to attain adult-like skills in using language. We welcome abstracts that look at any level of linguistic representation (e.g. sounds, words, constructions, discourse).

Invited Speakers:

William Croft, University of New Mexico, and Thomas Griffiths, UC Berkeley

We are soliciting papers in any of the following areas:

- **Mechanisms of learning**
 - The role of variation in input (speaker-related, language-related, context-related)
 - The role of frequency, familiarity, size of units
 - Extracting statistical regularities from input
 - Cue detection and integration
- **Models of learning**
 - Capturing linguistic knowledge (exemplar models, connectionist networks, Bayesian models, etc.)
- **Different paths in learning**
 - Individual differences
 - Cognitive
 - Input-related
 - Cross-linguistic differences

Abstracts are limited to no more than **500 words, font-size 12, double-spaced**, with up to one additional page for examples and references. Abstracts will be for oral presentation only, and should be sent to clrf09@gmail.com as a pdf file, using the name of the first author (e.g., clark.pdf) as the file name.

For contact information, the submission deadline (to be posted in the next two months), and a website for CLRF-33 (also in the making), see <http://lsa2009.berkeley.edu/Events.html>