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"An excellent collection of up-to-date papers on pragmatic competence as the root of language acquisition – and as its fullest flowering as well." **Michael Tomasello**, Max Planck Institute for Evolutionary Anthropology

Pragmatic Development in First Language Acquisition

Edited by Danielle Matthews

University of Sheffield

Pragmatic development is increasingly seen as the foundation stone of language acquisition more generally. From very early on, children demonstrate a strong desire to understand and be understood that motivates the acquisition of lexicon and grammar and enables ever more effective communication. In the 35 years since the first edited volume on the topic, a flourishing literature has reported on the broad set of skills that can be called pragmatic. This volume aims to bring that literature together in a digestible format. It provides a series of succinct review chapters on 19 key topics ranging from preverbal skills right up to irony and argumentative discourse. Each chapter equips the reader with an overview of current theories, key empirical findings and questions for new research. This valuable resource will be of interest to scholars of psychology, linguistics, speech therapy, and cognitive science.

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