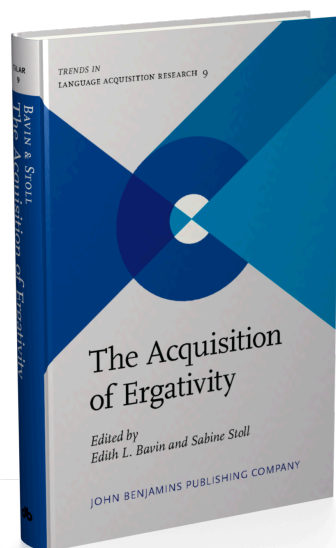


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The Acquisition of Ergativity

Edited by Edith L. Bavin and Sabine Stoll

La Trobe University / University of Zurich

Ergativity is one of the main challenges both for linguistic and acquisition theories. This book is unique, taking a cross-linguistic approach to the acquisition of ergativity in a large variety of typologically distinct languages. The chapters cover languages from different families and from different geographic areas with different expressions of ergativity. Each chapter includes a description of ergativity in the language(s), the nature of the input, the social context of acquisition and developmental patterns. Comparisons of the acquisition process across closely related languages are made, change in progress of the ergative systems is discussed and, for one language, acquisition by bilingual and monolingual children is compared. The volume will be of particular interest to language acquisition researchers, linguists, psycholinguists and cognitive scientists.

[Trends in Language Acquisition Research, 9] 2013. v, 341 pp.

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“This important and path-breaking book will be a treat for researchers who work on ergativity. And psychologists who find it difficult to imagine alternative universes will be taken on a voyage of discovery, led by skilled guides. Prevailing acquisition models are challenged by the diversity of ergative systems. This book presents the diversity clearly enough to stimulate new thinking about child language, as well as linguistic universals.”

Dan I. Slobin, University of California, Berkeley

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