

The acquisition of sociophonetic competence in a bilingual context

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This seminar looks at the role of input in providing the child with the source of phonological knowledge and the tools to (co-)construct a flexible phonological system. This system may exhibit both convergence towards and divergence away from adult patterns depending on the needs of the interaction and the stage of the child's development. Data from two studies are presented: the first looks at phonetic accommodation as part of adolescent children's developing sociophonetic competence and suggests that, far from filtering out any foreign accent features that they are exposed to, the children harness the rich repertoire of accent patterns that they are exposed to and make use of it in their production, demonstrating sociolinguistic competence (Khattab, 2009; 2013). The second study focusses on infants and the role of their self-perception and production in filtering adult input in the process of building phonological representations (Khattab & Al-Tamimi, 2013). This raises the role of the child's own production in phonological representation and how it interacts with representations of the adult input.

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Khattab, G. and Al-Tamimi, J. (2013). The role of geminates in shaping early word patterns by Lebanese-Arabic speaking children. In M.M. Vihman & T. Keren-Portnoy (eds.) *Readings on Phonological Development: Templatic Approaches, Cross-Linguistic Data*. Cambridge: CUP.