

SSAC020S5 LEVEL 5/6

L A N G U A G E L E A R N I N G

Autumn 2015: October 7 – December 15 (Term 1)

Spring 2016: January 16 – March 15 (Term 2)

Wednesday 18:00 – 19:30 Room LSHGTM 1LG6

Instructor: Kazuya Saito

Department of Applied Linguistics and Communication, Birkbeck, University of London

Office 334 – k.saito@bbk.ac.uk

Website: <http://kazuyasaito.net/>

Course Description and Objectives

This course provides an introduction to theory and research with a main focus on second and additional language acquisition. In order to help students understand the processes, developmental patterns and factors contributing to second language acquisition, the module first begins by exploring how individuals and groups learn a first language. Subsequently, we will review a range of topics including theories of language learning, both first and second; individual differences in second language learning (age, aptitude, motivation, etc.); interlanguage development; and the effects of instruction on second language learning. In the latter part of the course students will apply their knowledge of theoretical perspectives and research to evaluate the effectiveness of different approaches to second language teaching and learning as well as understand the state-of-the-art in various areas of second language acquisition research. After this course, successful students will be able to:

- explain what is currently known about language acquisition from research, how we have come to know it, and what still needs to be investigated
- accurately evaluate popular ideas about language acquisition
- develop informed expectations for language learning and teaching
- answer their own questions about SLA, frame new questions in the light of current research, and move toward research projects of their own

Students can always see me before/after class, and do not feel hesitant to contact me via email, should you have any questions regarding the content of the class, assignments etc. (appointments are available upon request)

Required Text

Lightbown, P. M., & Spada, N. (2012). *How languages are learned (4th edition)*. Oxford: Oxford University Press.

Recommended Texts

Bavin, E. L. (2009). *The Cambridge handbook of child language*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

Chapelle, C. (Ed.). (2013). *The Encyclopaedia of Applied Linguistics*. Oxford, UK: Wiley-Blackwell.

Clark, E. (2009) *First language acquisition*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

Herschensohn, J., & Young-Scholten, M. (Eds.) (2013). *The Cambridge handbook of second language acquisition*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

Ortega, L. (2009). *Understanding second language acquisition*. London: Hodder Arnold.

Rowland, C. (2014) *Understanding child language acquisition*. Abingdon/New York: Routledge.