

**Language Acquisition and Processing**

Code: 101730  
ECTS Credits: 9

Degree	Type	Year	Semester
2500893 Speech therapy	FB	1	2

**Contact**

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**Use of Languages**

Principal working language: catalan (cat)  
Some groups entirely in English: No  
Some groups entirely in Catalan: Yes  
Some groups entirely in Spanish: No

**Teachers**

Melina Aparici Aznar  
Alondra Camus Torres  
María Inés Caño Melero

**Prerequisites**

There are no prerequisites for attending this course. However, we recommend a good command of orthography and grammar of student's first language. Reading in English is a plus.

**Objectives and Contextualisation**

The aim of this course is to provide students with basic knowledge about two basic subjects in psycholinguistics: how we acquire language in infancy and how we process language.

The main objectives of the subject are:

- Know the main theoretical frameworks in psycholinguistics
- Describe the features and functions of human language
- Understand the different phases of human language processing and know the internal representations associated with it.
- Know the stages in the acquisition of linguistic and communicative skills from infancy to adulthood
- Identify different data collection methods for the study of psycholinguistics
- Relate language development with cognitive and social development.
- Detect difficulties in first stages of language acquisition

**Competences**

- Adapt one's communication to various audiences in accordance with age, pathology, etc.
- Analyse and synthesise information.
- Demonstrate an understanding and correct use of the terminology and methodology of speech-therapy research.
- Evaluate the scientific production that supports speech therapists' professional development.
- Integrate the foundations of biology (anatomy and physiology), psychology (evolutionary processes and development), language and teaching as these relate to speech-therapy intervention in communication, language, speech, hearing, voice and non-verbal oral functions.
- Managing communication and information technologies.
- Understand, integrate and relate new knowledge deriving from autonomous learning.

## Learning Outcomes

1. Analyse and synthesise.
2. Assess and judge the adequacy of the methodology used in specific research.
3. Correctly use the terminology and methodology characteristics of scientific research.
4. Describe the basic mechanisms of communicative function in language and know how to apply this in the conversational environment.
5. Describe the various psychological processes involved in the production and comprehension of discourse, and relate these.
6. Identify and assess the adequacy of scientific productions on the acquisition and development of language.
7. Identify key inputs from scientific processes related to psychological processes that support the professional development of speech therapists.
8. Identify the psychological and psycholinguistic foundations of speech.
9. Identify, describe and relate the different phases of natural language processing in perception and production.
10. Identify, describe and relate the different stages of language acquisition.
11. Infer the implications of evolutionary-development processes on language, speech, hearing, voice and non-verbal oral functions.
12. List and relate the features and functions of human language.
13. Managing communication and information technologies.
14. Understand, integrate and relate new knowledge deriving from autonomous learning.
15. Use strategies appropriate to presenting oral arguments on issues covered in class.

## Content

1. Language acquisition
  - 1.1. Theories on language acquisition
  - 1.2. Methodology in psycholinguistics research
2. Stages of language acquisition
  - 2.1. Pre-linguistic communication: intentional communication, speech perception skills in babies, adult adaptations
  - 2.2. Lexical acquisition: first words, explosion of the lexicon, developmental phenomena in meaning acquisition
  - 2.3. Phonological development: pre-linguistic behaviour, phonological development and simplifying procedures
  - 2.4. Morpho-syntactic acquisition: telegraphic speech, morphology acquisition, simple sentences, complex sentences and sentence modalities.
  - 2.5. Pragmatics development: conversational skills and speech acts

1. 3. Language development beyond five years: late developments
  - 3.1. Late semantic and pragmatic developments: non-literal meaning.
  - 3.2. Late syntactic developments: compound sentences; complex syntactic structures.
  - 3.3. Discourse building
    1. 4. Language processing in perception
      - 4.1. Understanding language
        - 4.1.1. Speech perception in adults and children
        - 4.1.2. Word storing and recognition
        - 4.1.3. Language structure: syntactic processing
      - 4.2. Communication and language
        - 4.2.1. Pragmatics
        - 4.2.2. Discourse comprehension
    1. 5. Language production
      - 5.1. Speech production. Stages and spontaneous speech errors.
      - 5.2. Production of written language
        1. 6. Language as a modular skill
- 6.1. Fundamental debates on cognition and language

## Methodology

- Master classes: the lecturer will provide theoretical content with the support of multimedia materials. Students are expected to participate in debates and other classroom activities.
- Workshop classes will deal with cases or experiments which students have to carry out and discuss.
- Online classroom: Moodle will be used to provide students with materials and assessment tests, as well as promote communication.

## Activities

Title	Hours	ECTS	Learning Outcomes
Type: Directed			
Master classes with the support of TIC and group discussion	64.5	2.58	3, 15
Workshop classes	14	0.56	1, 6, 7, 15, 2
Type: Supervised			
Individual attention to students	10.5	0.42	1, 6, 7, 2
Participation in discussions and other activities at the online campus.	10	0.4	1, 14, 3, 13

Type: Autonomous

Autonomous search of information	20	0.8	1, 14, 6, 7, 13, 2
Individual study and exam preparation	50	2	1, 14
Reading papers and book chapters	48	1.92	1, 14, 7

## Assessment

Evidences 1 and 2: There will be two multiple-choice examinations (Weeks 8 and 18). Each of them adds 40% to the final grade (40%+40%=80%).

Evidence 3: The remaining 20% is the average grading of workshops. Workshops will be assessed by means of short questionnaires and brief reports. A minimum of 4 evaluations must be submitted.

Students with a grade of 5 or more will pass the course. In order to be assessed, the student must take part in the three assessment activities mentioned above and it is necessary to obtain a minimum score of 3,5 in EV1 and EV2.

Any student that has presented a 40% of evaluation activities will be considered assessable.

Reassessment:

Students who have covered 2/3 of the assessment but has obtained a grade between 3.5 and 5, can take a reassessment exam (week 19 or 20). This exam will be on the subjects the student failed. The maximum grade to be obtained in this exam is 5.

The guidelines for assessment can be found here:

## Assessment Activities

Title	Weighting	Hours	ECTS	Learning Outcomes
Brief reports	20% of the final score	4	0.16	1, 3, 15, 2
Partial exam 2	40% of the final score	2	0.08	14, 5, 4, 12, 8, 6, 7, 10, 9, 11, 13
Partial exam1	40% of the final score	2	0.08	14, 5, 4, 12, 8, 6, 7, 10, 9, 11, 13

## Bibliography

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