

Introduction

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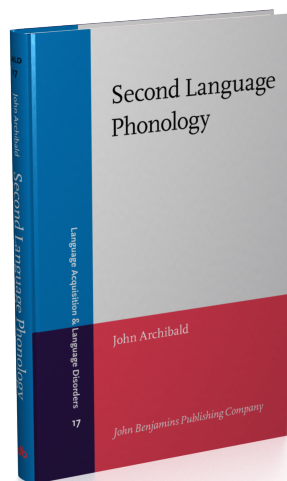
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Second Language Phonology

John Archibald

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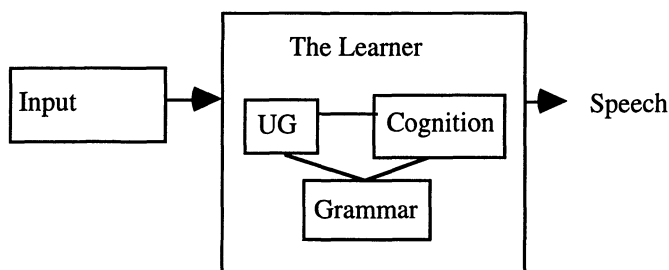
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Introduction

In this book I seek to explore a variety of aspects of second language speech. The field provides interesting interactions with a number of disciplines. Learners have to acquire mental representations pertaining to the new sound system. As a result we are looking at the interaction of linguistic and psychological theory. In addition, we must also address aspects of psycholinguistic theory as second language learners must engage in both production and perception. They must perceive the L2 linguistic input (perhaps filtered through their L1 competence) in order to set up a mental representation of the new sound system. They must also access lexical entries when actually producing words and string them together to produce sentences.



As a result, there are many different perspectives that may be taken in analyzing second language speech.

In this book, I have chosen to focus on contributions to the field made by (primarily) generative linguists looking at the sounds and sound systems of second language learners. It is, therefore, a restricted view of the broad field,

but one that I feel has made important contributions to our understanding of the nature of the representation of phonological knowledge by non-native speakers.

I begin the book by providing an overview of second language acquisition research (Chapter One) in order to place the study of L2 speech in context. I then give an outline of traditional approaches to investigating interlanguage phonology (Chapter Two). Chapter Three consists of a discussion of relevant aspects of a learning theory that must be included in a treatment of how people learn sound systems. Chapters Four, Five and Six focus on particular aspects of the mental representation of phonological competence; segments, syllables, and stress, respectively. Chapter Seven deals with issues related to the mechanisms that govern the changing of interlanguage grammars over time. Chapter Eight is a summary of the issues raised throughout the text.

I conceive of the book as something that can be used in conjunction with the primary literature to serve as a textbook for senior undergraduate or introductory graduate seminars in second language phonology. A certain amount of background in phonological theory is assumed, though I have tried to present relevant background (or at least references) where necessary. In places, the text is selective in its coverage, choosing to present the details of a few studies rather than presenting an encyclopedic overview of a larger number of studies.

Without further ado, then, let us turn to a discussion of the acquisition of second language phonology.

