

Acknowledgements

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Input and Evidence: The raw material of second language acquisition

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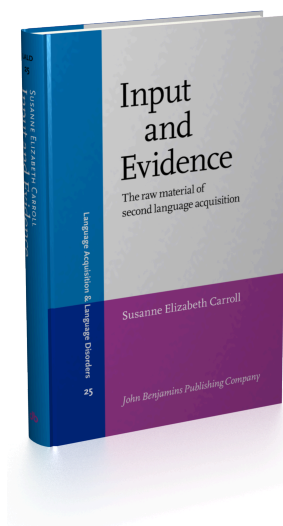
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Acknowledgements

The origins of this book go back to the mid 1980s and my increasing dissatisfaction with the turn which generative work in second language acquisition was then taking. I decided to do something completely different. In the intervening years, I have instead been pursuing an agenda focused more on the integration of linguistic theorising with research on processing, perception, memory, and other aspects of cognition. My intellectual debt to Ray Jackendoff will be apparent from the first pages of this book. If Ray ever chooses to read it, I can only hope that he is pleased with the use I have made of his many ideas about linguistic cognition and meaning. Bonnie Schwartz and I have been discussing the specific themes treated here for years — over e-mail, at conferences, over the telephone. We don't agree on the details but the discussions have always been stimulating and I expect them to continue to be. Merrill Swain was co-principal investigator of the project which led to the data set reported on in Chapter 8. This project was funded by the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada (SSHRCC File no. 410–89–1484) and the Ontario Ministry of Education through its block grant to the Ontario Institute for Studies in Education. I would like to acknowledge the generosity of both of these funding agencies. I take pleasure also in acknowledging the assistance of Myriam Schachter, who carried out the experimental sessions with the subjects, Phil Nagy, who provided statistical advice, and Harmut Brasche who carried out the statistical analysis. I am grateful for this collaboration; I learned a great deal from it.

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