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Injunctives in First Language Acquisition: A Case Study

This presentation reports on research in progress on the first-language acquisition of a 20-month-old male child, building upon research by Jolly & Plunkett (2008), Lardiere (2007), Haegeman (1996) and De Villiers (1991). I study the child's language development over an eight-week period using spontaneous production data from video recordings of weekly, half-hour sessions of the child interacting with her mother in a natural environment. The child was near the end of the one-word stage, and many of his utterances have injunctive force including imperative verbs. I will attempt to determine whether this early use of imperatives and injunctives can shed light upon the acquisition of full vs. truncated syntactic structure based on analyses of imperatives proposed by Beukema & Coopmans (1989) and Pirvulescu and Roberge (1999) and others.

References:

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