

Psych156A/ Ling150

Winter 2009

Review Questions: Introduction to Language Acquisition

- (1) Terms/concepts to know: phonology, morphology, lexicon, syntax, pragmatics, grammar, linguistic infinity, prescriptive rules, descriptive rules, Marr's hierarchy
- (2) Give one reason why it would be difficult to teach a child the meaning of a word like "the".
- (3) What evidence is there that children don't pay much attention to explicit corrections their parents make about the grammatical form of the utterances they produce?
- (4) One view of language learning supposes that children learn language via imitation. Give one example that shows children are not simply imitating the language they hear. Be sure to point out why this example shows the child is producing something different than what they would have heard from native speakers of the language.
- (5) We might expect children to continuously improve their language performance. Describe one piece of evidence that demonstrates that sometimes children's performance worsens before it gets better again.