

European Summer School in Linguistic Typology

September 2016

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Language acquisition research from a cross-linguistic perspective.

One of the main challenges of language acquisition research is to track down the mechanisms that allow children to extract information from the input when they learn the language/s of their environment. This challenge is enormous if we consider typological diversity. The goal of this course is to explore the role of differences in linguistic structure and their repercussions both on the input and acquisition processes. Results of individual and comparative acquisition studies on a variety of topics will be presented. Topics include the early vocabulary development with special focus on nouns and verbs, the acquisition of tense and aspect, negation, ergativity and the role of child-directed speech in different cultural settings. A main focus of this course will be on methodological challenges in characterizing and comparing development.