

## Chapter 2

### Language Acquisition: A Theoretical Journey

#### Multiple Choice Questions

1. \_\_\_\_\_ suggest that children have an innate ability to talk that is realized with minimal assistance from the environment.
  - a. Social Interactionists
  - b. Cognitivists
  - c. Behaviorists
  - d. Nativists
  - e. None of the above
  
2. According to the behaviorist view, \_\_\_\_\_ is the most important factor in language acquisition.
  - a. Cognitive development
  - b. Biological maturation
  - c. The LAD
  - d. Language acquisition support structure (LASS)
  - e. The environment
  
3. You observe a child reaching for his juice cup on the counter. When his grandmother approaches, he looks at her and reaches again for the juice, saying "juice!" The behaviorist would deem his utterance a/an \_\_\_\_\_.
  - a. Autoclitic
  - b. Mand
  - c. Tact
  - d. Intraverbal
  - e. Echoic
  
4. The theorist most closely associated with the behaviorist view of language development is \_\_\_\_\_.
  - a. Skinner
  - b. Chomsky
  - c. Staats
  - d. Searle
  - e. Piaget
  
5. Any behavior whose frequency of occurrence can be affected by the responses that follow it is a \_\_\_\_\_.
  - a. Discriminative stimulus
  - b. Tact
  - c. Reinforcement
  - d. Mand
  - e. Operant

6. You observe a child say “car!” His mother immediately responds with, “blue car!” The mother’s response would be considered \_\_\_\_\_.
- Shaping
  - An expansion
  - Parenting
  - An operant
  - Positive reinforcement
7. If you were to observe a mother using motherese or parentese, what would it sound like?
- She speaks in a soft voice and at a low pitch
  - She emphasizes verbs with an exaggerated intonation pattern
  - She emphasizes the function words in sentences at a higher pitch
  - She speaks quieter than normal and at a consistent pitch
  - She uses a slightly higher pitch and an exaggerated intonation pattern
8. \_\_\_\_\_ was/were devised by nativists to account for the production of an unlimited number of grammatically acceptable sentences.
- Parallel distributed processes
  - Language acquisition apparatus
  - Case grammar
  - Passive transformation
  - Transformational generative grammar
9. Interactionists explain that variations in the acquisition of morphology are directly related to the \_\_\_\_\_ of the inflections of the language they’re learning.
- Emphasis
  - Functions
  - Semantics
  - Saliency
  - Pitch
10. According to the interactionist view, the child is \_\_\_\_\_ in the process of acquiring language, whereas in the behaviorist view, the child is \_\_\_\_\_ in the process of acquiring language.
- Passive, active
  - Reflexive, passive
  - Active, passive
  - Active, reflexive
  - Reflexive, active
11. Research shows that \_\_\_\_\_ exist(s) in both humans and monkeys and fire when one is engaged in activity, as well as when one observes another engaged in activity.
- Mirror neurons
  - Plastic brain cells
  - Arcuate fasciculus
  - Primary motor strip
  - Wernicke’s area
12. According to Chomsky, phrase structure rules \_\_\_\_\_.
- Add, rearrange or delete elements of the deep structure

- b. Operate on deep structure to derive surface structure
- c. Describe the underlying relationships of words and phrases in the deep structure
- d. Revise the word order of a sentence
- e. Transform the active sentence into the passive sentence.

13. The basic assertion of the information processing theory is that \_\_\_\_\_.

- a. Acquisition can best be explained by principles of learning
- b. Function, not abstract grammar, generates language structure
- c. In order to process information, children develop language structures
- d. A child is born with innate abilities to learn grammar
- e. Human beings are limited in their capacity to process information

14. The competition model is an example of a \_\_\_\_\_.

- a. Parallel processing system
- b. Language acquisition device
- c. Language acquisition support structure
- d. Serial pattern processing
- e. Nativism theory

15. The self-organizing neural network is the result of the brain's \_\_\_\_\_.

- a. Mirror neurons
- b. Arcuate fasciculus
- c. Wernicke's area
- d. Broca's area
- e. None of the above

### Short Answer & Fill-in-the-Blank Questions

Please **do not** use abbreviations to answer the following questions.

1. The innate language reservoir in the brain that is filled with information about the rules of language structure is called \_\_\_\_\_.
2. On the continuum of the *nature-vs.-nurture* debate, the theory that would be most on the "nature" end is \_\_\_\_\_.
3. The \_\_\_\_\_ technique can be used to reinforce small steps that gradually approximate a target behavior.
4. The \_\_\_\_\_ act is concerned with the motive or purpose underlying an utterance.
5. On the continuum of the *nature-vs.-nurture* debate, the theory that would be most on the "nurture" side is \_\_\_\_\_.

### Essay Questions

1. Pick one of the following pairs of theories to compare and contrast:
  - a. Nativism vs. Behaviorism
  - b. Social interactionism vs. Cognitive interactionism
2. Describe how operant and classical conditioning are used to explain language acquisition using examples.
3. Select the language development theory with which you are most closely aligned. Describe the basic tenets

of the theory, explain why you selected it, and describe how your interactions with children in a therapy/educational setting could be influenced by this theory.

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**TEST BANK ANSWERS**

**Multiple Choice Questions**

1. D
2. E
3. C
4. A
5. E
6. B
7. E
8. E
9. D
10. C
11. A
12. C
13. B
14. A
15. E

**Short Answer & Fill-in-the-Blank Questions**

1. Language acquisition device
2. Nativist
3. Shaping
4. Illocutionary
5. Behaviorist