

Assignment 5: Due Monday, September 12

1. In the film *The Mind: Language* you were shown a language experiment with an infant testing whether the infant could discriminate between the sounds [a] and [i].
 - a) Briefly explain the methodology of the experiment. (3 points)
 - b) What were the results of the experiment? (5 points)
 - c) What happened when there were multiple voices (male and female) saying both the [a] and the [i] sounds, and what is the significance of this? (4 points)

2. Briefly explain the critical period hypothesis. (5 points) How does Genie's language behavior support the critical period hypothesis? (5 points)

3. (12 points) Here are some child utterances with contexts and adult English translations (data from Jean Stilwell Peccei, *Child Language*, London:Routledge, 1994). For each utterance, state the stage of acquisition (from page 89 above) that the child has reached and one characteristic of each stage that the utterance(s) illustrate.
 - a. Car! (pushing toy car) 'I'm making the car go!'
Ball! (ball is rolling toward child) 'That's a ball!'
Ball! (reaching for a ball on a high shelf) 'I want the ball!'
 - b. Car go! (pushing toy car) 'I'm making the car go!'
More cookie! (having finished last cookie) 'I want another cookie!'
More butterfly! (watching butterfly, 2nd butterfly appears) 'There's another butterfly!'
 - h. Our play that on floor. 'We will play that on the floor.'
I want drink it out can. 'I want to drink it out of the can.'

4. (6 points) Briefly describe how a dichotic listening experiment is performed and draw a simple diagram. What does this experiment tell us about language and the brain?