

Dalle prime parole al lessico mentale

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Abstract

From the First Words to the Mental Lexicon

This paper starts from the theoretical assumption that from earliest childhood human beings develop their faculté du langage in the course of interactions with their neighbors and from the moment they focus jointly on objects and on each other.

The acquisition of the lexicon is viewed as a sort of privileged observatory not only with regard to the relationship between human cognition and language, but also in relation to the social and socio-cognitive skills that children put into practice in the process of language acquisition.

In this paper we shall focus on the development of the naming process, particularly on the way in which it determines the acquisition of the lexicon of a historical-natural language and, in second instance, on how the words we acquire connect quite naturally with each other until they merge into the mental lexicon of a community of speakers.

Keywords: naming; forms of life; theory of mind; lexical development; mental lexicon.