HOW CHILDREN LEARN LANGUAGE?

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RECAP

- Chomsky assumed that Children were "naturally" aware of Grammar.
- He provided evidence-

  IGNATIUS HAS STOLEN A PIG

  WHICH PIG HAS IGNATIUS STOLEN? (Comes Naturally)

  ANGELA KNOWS WHO HAS STOLEN THE PIG.

  TRY TO MAKE 'WHICH' PIG QUESTION.

Conclusion- *"Some General Principle of language determines which phrases can be questioned"*

SETTING SWITCHES

- NORTH AND SOUTH HEMISPHERE ANALOGY.
  - o PRE-WIRED WITH INFORMATION ABOUT SWIRLING OF WATER.
  - o CAN CONECT DOTS AND CONCLUDE MANY INFORMATIONS-
    - o LIKE HOTTER REGIONS

- SIMILARLY, Children were pre-wired with a number possible options which language might choose.
- Exposure to language can act as trigger, in order to find out which route their language had chosen.

'LOGICAL PROBLEM OF LANGUAGE ACQUISITION'

- Learnability: How simple snippets provides sufficient clues to final, complex system like Grammar of human language?

- Answer can be that Children have an enormous amount of pre-wired information.

- 'CHILDREN ARE BORN EQUIPPED WITH UNIVERSAL GRAMMAR (UG)', i.e. innate component is more extensive than what previously conceived.

MODULAR STRUCTURE:

UG is considered as structured modular component of Human mind-'Language Faculty'.

- Within each module, there were sets of principles, which are simple.

- Language is considered as skilled interaction of numerous simple components, which makes it complex.

EXAMPLE OF PRINCIPLE:

- Shortest move- If One of Two chunks of Structure are needed to be moved then one which moved least far must be selected.

  FENELLA PERSUADED WHO TO BUY WHAT?

  WHO DID FENELLA PERSUADE TO BUY WHAT?

  *WHAT DID FENELLA PERSUADE WHO TO BUY?

- 'WH-' Question making. (Discussed Earlier)
- Complex Sentences Understanding.

  SEBASTIAN SAID OSBERT BIT HIM INSTEAD OF HIMSELF.

PROBLEM WITH MODULAR STRUCTURE:

Why aren't all languages far more similar?

- Chomsky answered that UG is only partially-wired up.
- There are Option points within the module, with switches that could be set to a fixed number of positions, through experience.
- Child might know in advance that language structure have one key word, head. They then find out position for modifiers.

    THE DOG DROPPED THE SLIPPER DOWN THE DRAIN.

Its Turkish Equivalent is-

    THE DOG THE DRAIN DOWN THE SLIPPER DROPPED

PARAMETER AND PERIPHERY

- The possible options in module was termed as Parameters.
- A parameter is a property of language whose values could vary from language to language.
- Language is a system of unifying principles that is fairly rich in deductive structure but with parameters to be fixed by experience.

- Periphery is the additional part added to the system, represented in brain of speaker-hearer.

- According to Michael Tomasello, 'how children learn language is not a logical problem but an empirical problem.

- In his opinion, we need to turn to a usage-based approach, one which explores how human children combine inherited and learned skills as they acquire language.

- He explains: 'The human capacity for language is best seen as a conspiracy of many different cognitive, social-cognitive, information-processing, and learning skills'.