# Module 3: Language Acquisition and Socialization

## Introduction

This week, we are moving away from concepts and theory in Linguistic anthropology towards considering the ways in which Language is socially enacted. In the beginning of Ch. 3 in your textbook, Ahearn presents two examples of how young children are socialized in societies in the United States and Papua New Guinea. In this module, we will consider language acquisition and the ways in which young children are socialized through and into language. As an example both of language socialization and the ways in which language can reflect language ideologies, we will begin our reading of Keith Basso’s book, *Portraits of the Whiteman.*

## Objectives

At the end of this module, you will be able to:

* Describe the language socialization process.
* Summarize Noam Chomsky’s theory of Universal Grammar and language acquisition.
* Explain linguistic anthropological explanation of socially situated language acquisition.
* Apply knowledge gained about language acquisition to an ethnographic example.
* Identify how Apache children reproduce their social realities through joking.

## Time Management

This course is designed to maximize benefits gained from our weekly f2f meeting. In order for our class meeting to enhance and further deepen your understanding of course materials and help you achieve our module objectives, I suggest you manage your time wisely. An efficient example of how you can best utilize your time for this course is as follows:

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| **Day** | **Suggested Action** |
| Monday | Read assigned reading and module content |
| Tuesday | Finish assigned reading and module content |
| Wednesday | Original research question due in the weekly graded discussion |
| Thursday | F2F meeting |
| Friday | Peer analysis of research question due by midnight tonight |

## Assigned Reading

This week, you will complete the following readings. Please do the reading as you complete the module content. You must have the required reading done prior to our f2f class meeting on Thursday.

* Ahearn, Laura. *Living Language.* Ch. 3
* Basso, Keith. *Portraits of “The Whiteman.”* Ch. 1-2.