



# IIT Madras

## BSc Degree

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The background features a large, abstract watercolor splash in shades of orange, red, and blue. In the center, there is a faint, circular logo of the Indian Institute of Technology Madras, which includes a lotus flower and the text 'INDIAN INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY MADRAS' and 'सिद्धिमेवति कामजम्'.

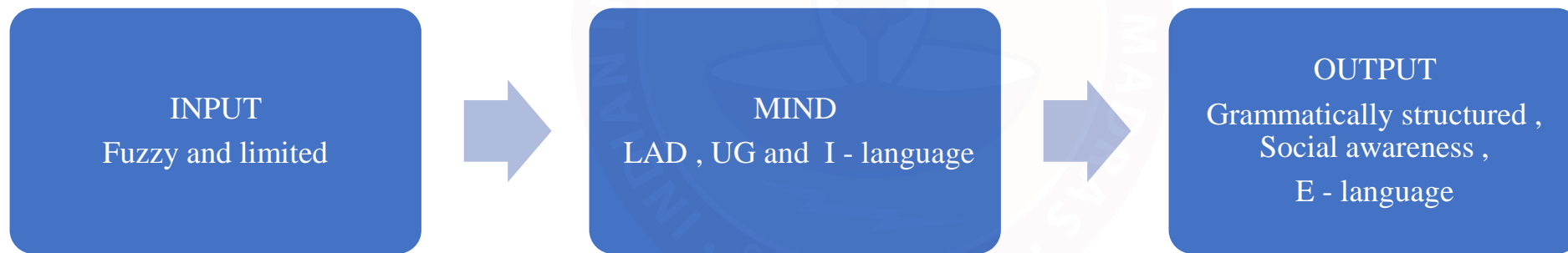
# Language Learning and Use

**Break free from inhibitions that stop you  
from speaking with confidence.**

**KARTHIKA SATHYANATHAN**

# HOW DO CHILDREN LEARN LANGUAGES ?

- Behaviorist model : Children learn languages by merely imitating what they hear .
- Mentalist model : Role of human brain in language acquisition and use .



Universal Grammar : A certain set of structural rules are innate to humans, independent of sensory experience.

LAD : Language Acquisition Device

# WHAT DOES CHILDRENS' LANGUAGE TELL YOU ?

- Crying stage → Babbling stage → Eight months → Ten months → Sixteen months
- Two and a half years → Three and a half years → Five years
- Stage one: 2½ years : Where my toy? (Simplification of adult English).
- Stage two: 3½ years : What your name is ? (Does not know where to put the auxiliary verb)
- Stage three : 5 years : Speaks with good approximation to adult grammar (negative sentence, past tense etc.)
- ❖ Children know much more than they imitate (construct grammatical patterns).
- ❖ They produce novel utterances, a proof for mental grammar.
- ❖ All of this comes from the menu of Universal Grammar

# SECOND LANGUAGE LEARNER

- Ma'am your name what ? / Your name is what ? (*Ma'am , Unga peru enna?*)
- Mother tongue influence
- Principle of Economy
- Inter-language : Form of learner language, used by children, is called 'interlanguage'. It is neither indicative of an impoverished version of language filled with errors, nor is it a language purely based on errors due to the first language interference. It is a language, governed by systematic rules and has a life of its own.



# THE ONE AND ONLY MANTRA TO IMPROVE YOUR LANGUAGE SKILLS

**THE MORE THE INPUT , THE BETTER THE OUTPUT !**