

Large-Scale Acquisition Studies: Applied and Theoretical Insights

Uli Sauerland

Leibniz - Center of General Linguistics in Berlin (ZAS) Berlin

I address some results from two recent large scale targeted language acquisition studies reported by Katsos et al. (2016) and Sauerland et al. (2016). The studies compared across 18 or more languages the performance by 5 year old children speaking the language on two structures: quantified sentences and wh-questions. The applied value of the studies consists in part of identifying novel morphological factors affecting performance on items like object questions that are frequently employed in language diagnosis. But the results furthermore have a great value in discovering candidates for specific ways how general cognition shapes language in the domain of morpho-semantics.