

Susannah Kirby

UNC-Chapel Hill Linguistics Department
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Research Interests

First language acquisition, with special focus on the acquisition of syntax and the lexical-syntactic interface; intraspeaker variation and optionality; language change; expletives; interactions between linguistic and cognitive development

Current Position

Instructor/Graduate Student, Department of Linguistics, UNC-Chapel Hill

Education

<i>Graduate</i>	Current	Seeking Ph. D. Linguistics, UNC-Chapel Hill (Misha Becker, Advisor) Dissertation working title: <i>The acquisition of raising-to-object and object control</i> Expected graduation date: May 2009
	2005	M.A. Linguistics, UNC-Chapel Hill (Misha Becker, Advisor) Thesis: <i>Semantics or Subcases? The acquisition of referential vs. expletive 'it'</i> .
<i>Undergraduate</i>	2001	B.A. (Psychology, German minor), Highest Distinction, UNC-Chapel Hill
<i>No Degree Sought</i>	2007	University of California, Los Angeles (Visiting student: Winter/Spring)
	2006	Middlebury College, Summer Language School (German)
	2002	Middlebury College, Summer Language School (Spanish)
	2000-2001	Universität Heidelberg, Germany (Exchange student)
	1999	Middlebury College, Summer Language School (German)

Publications

Refereed Journal Articles

Kirby, S. and M. Becker. (2007). Which It Is It? The acquisition of referential and expletive it. *Journal of Child Language* 34(3), 571-599.

Conference Proceedings

de Marneffe, M.-C., S. Grimm, U. Cohen Priva, S. Lestrade, G. Ozbek, T. Schnoebelen, S. Kirby, M. Becker, V. Fong, & J. Bresnan. (To appear.) A statistical model of grammatical choices in children's productions of dative sentences. To appear in B. Haddican and B. Plunkett (eds.), *Formal approaches to variation in syntax*. Proceedings of the York 2007 conference on Formal Approaches to Variation in Syntax (FAVS).

Teaching Experience

Courses Taught

Language Acquisition	Ling 203	Spring 2008
Introduction to Language	Ling 101	Fall 2007, 2006, 2005, 2004, Spring 2006
Introduction to Language (Online)	Ling 101	Spring 2007

Teaching Awards and Development

- 2006 Future Faculty Fellowship Program (UNC-CH Center for Teaching and Learning)
Intensive seminar focusing on a range of topics relating to college pedagogy
- 2005 Marc Adam Eisdorfer Award for the Outstanding Graduate Teaching Fellow in Linguistics

Teaching statement and extended teaching portfolio available upon request.

Conference Presentations

- 2007 M.-C. de Marneffe, U. Cohen Priva, S. Grimm, S. Lestrade, G. Ozbek, T. Schnoebelen, S. Kirby, M. Becker, V. Fong, and J. Bresnan, “A statistical model of grammatical choices in children’s productions of dative sentences,” presented at Formal Approaches to Variation in Syntax, University of York, May.
- 2006 S. Kirby and M. Becker, “The acquisition of referential vs. expletive ‘it’,” presented at the 80th LSA, Albuquerque, January.
- 2005 S. Kirby and M. Becker, “The acquisition of expletive vs. proform ‘it’,” presented at the 10th International Congress for the Study of Child Language, Berlin, July.
- 2005 S. Kirby and M. Becker, “Semantics or Subcases? The acquisition of expletive ‘it’,” presented at UNC-CH Spring Colloquium, March.

Other Talks and Presentations

- 2007 “Types of Learning in Language Acquisition: Evidence from raising and control.” UNC-CH Friday Colloquium Series, September.
- 2007 “When the Learning Gets Tough, the Tough Get Learning: Abstract verb-learning in the face of ambiguous strings (The case of raising-to-object and object control).” UCLA Psychobabble, January.
- 2007 “Everything you never wanted to know about Linguistics (and didn’t think to ask),” University Fellows meeting, October.

Research Experience

- 2005 Assisted Misha Becker (with Joan Bresnan, Stanford) on a project examining children’s acquisition of the double object construction; coded data from CHILDES (child language) files.
- 2005 Assisted Paul Roberge; compiled and summarized articles on (historical) Germanic syntax for his joint project, *The Cambridge History of the Germanic Languages*.
- 2003-2006 Assisted Misha Becker in experiments probing the acquisition of control and raising verbs.

Academic Service

- 2008 Reviewer for *Journal of Autism and Developmental Disorders*
- 2008 Continuous Enrollment Policy Working Group (UNC-CH Graduate School)
- 2003-current UNC-Chapel Hill Linguistics Department Webmaster
- 2003-current Lead Organizer/Presenter for “Armchair Linguistics”, a series of informal talks
- 2005-2006 UNC-Chapel Hill Spring Colloquium Coordinator

Academic Honors and Fellowships

- 2006 US Government Foreign Language and Area Studies (FLAS) Summer Fellowship: German
- 2003 William R. Kenan Fellowship (competitive, university-wide fellowship)
- 2000 Phi Beta Kappa

Grants Received

- 2007 Smith Research Grant: Funding for dissertation project expenses
- 2006 St. Anthony Educational Fund: Middlebury College travel expenses
- 2005 Graduate Student Opportunity Fund: IASCL conference registration fees

Professional Memberships

Linguistic Society of America

Language Proficiency

English (native), German (fluent), Spanish (proficient), Sanskrit (reading), French (reading)

References

Misha Becker Department of Linguistics
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