

Language Acquisition and Loss

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Our ability to acquire and use language increases as various bodily functions mature and become functional, beginning with fetal growth, and continuing into well adulthood. After our reproductive years, however, our bodies start to decline, in healthy ageing as well as due to diseases. With our longevity greatly extended beginning with the last century, creating worldwide problems of medical need. Research is increasing on various aspects of language loss, toward understanding the scientific bases of these problems, and to help alleviate them.

biosketch

Professor William S-Y. Wang grew up in China, and received his higher education in the U.S. He is the founding editor of the Journal of Chinese Linguistics, and an Academician of Academia Sinica. After teaching at Berkeley for 30 years as Professor of Linguistics, he worked at the City University of Hong Kong, and the Chinese University of Hong Kong, where he was the Founding Director of the Joint Research Centre for Language and Human Complexity. Currently he is Chair Professor of Cognitive Sciences at the Hong Kong Polytechnic University. His two areas of research are in the evolution of the languages and peoples of China, and in the cognitive neuroscience of language across the life-span.