

German Determiner Presuppositions in First Language Acquisition

Dr. Kazuko Yatsushiro

(Leibniz-Zentrum Allgemeine Sprachwissenschaft, ZAS Berlin)

Three components of determiner meaning have been identified: Truth conditions, implicatures, and presuppositions. In this paper, I investigate children's understanding of presuppositions associated with *jeder* 'every' and *beide* 'both' in German, using a Presupposition Judgment Task (30 children each for age 6, 7, 8, and 9). Heim (1991) proposes that there are two types of presuppositions, lexical and implicated. Implicated presuppositions are derived like implicatures.

The result of the experiment shows that the lexical presuppositions of *jeder* (existence presupposition) is acquired much earlier than the implicated presupposition of *jeder* (anti-uniqueness presupposition).

This is expected: Heim (1991) proposes that implicated presuppositions are derived, using the same mechanism as implicatures, and previous research on implicatures show that children have difficulties with implicatures (Noveck 2001), predicting that children have difficulties with implicated presuppositions as well. Children had difficulties with duality presupposition of *beide* 'both', however, although it is a lexical presupposition.