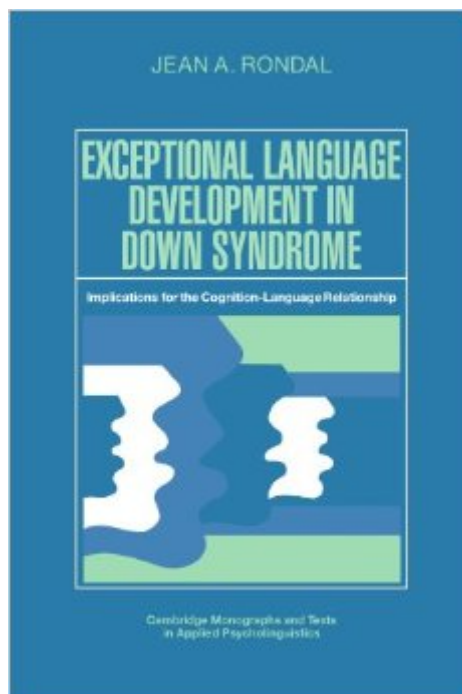


The book was found

Exceptional Language Development In Down Syndrome: Implications For The Cognition-Language Relationship (Cambridge Monographs And Texts In Applied Psycholinguistics)



Synopsis

Advanced language acquisition is possible in spite of serious mental handicap. This is the conclusion reached at the end of a thorough study of the language of a Down syndrome adult woman, exhibiting virtually normal expressive and receptive grammar. This case, presented in this book, is compared to a small number of other exceptional cases of language development in mental retardation. The findings are powerful arguments against the claim that the acquisition of grammar is determined by prior nonlinguistic cognitive achievements. Moreover, data analysis and comparison with other observations in language pathology (specific language impaired children, aphasic syndromes, degenerative syndromes, dementias) suggest that linguistic knowledge consists of independent but interacting modules. These data also supply interesting arguments in favor of a conception of grammatical development as the gradual unfolding of innate species-specific dispositions, and undoubtedly this book will appeal to researchers and advanced students in language development, developmental psychopathology and special education.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Rondal reports on a person with Down syndrome who is communicating at a level above that to be expected from people with Down syndrome. Does he raise his estimate of her intelligence (or of the maximum intelligence of people with Down syndrome? No, he does not. Instead, he declares that communication at that level requires less intelligence than has formerly been thought. An example of

academic rigidity at its worst.

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