

LINGUIST 591B
HW 3 - Week 3
Due Thursday Oct 1st

Ortega chap. 2

1. Look up what happened to Genie, the “feral child” mentioned on p.13. What did you find out, and what was her language acquisition path?

How do you think her story relates with nativism vs. empiricism/behaviorism debate in language acquisition?

2. At what age is a learner considered late versus early? In general, when is the cut for a critical period (CP) in second language acquisition? (section 2.4) Do people argue for a different CP depending on the kind of knowledge being acquired, linguistically speaking?

4. What is one of the arguments the author presents against the idea of a CP hypothesis, and what are her reason(s)?

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5. Julie, as a NNS individual of Arabic, exhibits NS abilities in the different tasks: choose one of the tasks and describe how her performance differs from NS and is close to NS.

6. How do the authors explain Julie’s abilities at the end of the paper?