

HW 1
LINGUIST 591B
Due Thursday September 24th.

Please answer the following questions thoughtfully, but don't write more than 2 pages overall.

Raymond Cattell, “Do We Teach Children To Speak?”

1. What was Skinner’s account of how “verbal behavior” is learned? What is the specific argument against this account that Cattell outlines in section 3.5?
2. Do you think there are other ways in which Skinner’s account is problematic? If so, what?
3. Do you think are any aspects of language acquisition where reinforcement and conditioning *do* play an important role? If so, what?

Gass & Selinker, Second Language acquisition

4. What can you hypothesize about a child’s morphological acquisition based on the following statements? (chapter 2, question 7 p.40)
 - a. “Grandma, I seed a lion at the zoo!”
 - b. “Gigi run fast!”
 - c. “Two cookie.”