

Brown's Stage IV

- Age = 35-40 months
- MLU = 3.0-3.75 morphemes
- increased complexity including "embedding" phrases in clauses

Stage IV Noun Phrase Elaboration

- Still often only one modifier before noun
- Modifier = article, demonstrative, adjective, etc.
 - Modifiers - some, other, more, one, another - also consistent
- But children use both subjective and objective position noun phrases
- Pronouns - they, us, her, hers, his, them - now used consistently

Stage IV Verb Phrase Elaboration

- Verb Phrase elaboration reflects morpheme development
- Past tense modals - could, would, should
- Auxiliary "be" + verbing consistent

Stage IV Negation and Questions

- Negation is auxiliary with negative in medial position including following forms:
 - didn't, doesn't, isn't, aren't
- Questions become more adult-like with inversion and appropriate auxiliary verbs
- Increased use of "why," "who," "how," and now child adds "when"

Brown's Stage V

- Age = 41-46 months
- MLU = 3.75-4.5 morphemes
- 9 of 14 morphemes are mastered by the end of Stage V, and the other 5 are mastered by approx. 50 months of age (V+)

Stage V Noun Phrase Elaboration

- Other morphemes learned:
 - comparative "er" bigger
 - superlative "est" biggest
 - agentive "er" singer
- Noun phrases and verb phrases are not necessarily longer in Stage V than Stage IV
- More correct use of adult forms may be seen
- Children continue to have difficulty with noun - verb agreement beyond Stage V

Stage V Verb Phrase Elaboration

- Increased use of verb morphology
- Patterns in development:
 - Copula before auxiliary
 - 2nd and 3rd person and plural subject verb forms are learned later than 1st person and singular
 - Regular and irregular 3rd person verb tense mastered beyond Stage V

Stage V Negation and Question Forms

- Negatives:
 - wasn't, weren't, wouldn't, shouldn't, couldn't
- Questions are more adult-like
- Emergence of tag questions
 - It's a nice day out, isn't it?
 - You're not leaving yet, are you?

Embedding Phrases

(Owens 2008, pp. 291-300)

- Embedding describes processes for creating complex utterances
 - phrases embedded in clauses
 - two clauses combined, conjoined
- 4 Kinds of phrases typical in complex utterances:
 - prepositional phrase
 - participial phrase
 - infinitive phrase
 - gerund phrases

Prepositional Phrases

- Preposition word + object of preposition and modifiers or articles
 - “on the road” “outside our fence”
- Early forms develop in Stage II with “on” and “in”
- embedded prepositional phrases appear in Stage IV

Participial Phrases

- Verbs that function as adjectives are “participles”
- look for suffixes -ing, -ed, -en, or -t
- phrase with a participle = participial phrase
- “The kids going from house to house are trick-or-treaters.”

Gerund Phrases

- Verb ending in -ing that functions as a noun
- “Swimming was my hobby.”
- phrase with a gerund is a gerund phrase
- emerge later, usually associated with Stage V

Infinitive Phrases

- Phrase containing an infinitive
- Infinitives are verb forms that are uninflected and preceded by “to”
- Infinitive phrases usually follow the main verb and can function as nouns, adverbs or adjectives
 - “I want to play outside.”
 - “She is going to be the doctor.”
- Semi-auxiliaries are early versions
- Simple infinitive phrases emerge in Stage IV

Clausal Conjoining and Embedding

- Putting 2 clauses together to create a complex sentence
- Conjoining with “and” is earliest form
 - conjoined words in Stage II “apples and bananas”
- Conjoined clauses emerge in Stages IV and V (mostly “and,” also “but,” “or”)
 - “My mommy works and she likes flowers”
- 3 Types of embedded clauses
 - object complement clause
 - wh-clause
 - relative clause

Object Complement Clause

- Clause in the object position
- follows verbs such as “think,” “know,” “need,” etc.
- “I know I didn’t prepare well for the test.”
- “He thinks that we’re going to be late.”

Wh-clause

- Subordinate clause that starts with wh-word and in object or complement position
- “I know what you did.”
- “Can you leave when this class is over?”

Relative clause

- Subordinate clause that modifies the preceding noun
- starts with “who,” “whom,” “whose,” “which,” or “that”
- “The girl who sits next to me helped.”
- Emerges at Stage V and later
