

Lecture 8  
**The Acquisition of Language (2)**

**Contents:**

- **Later Stages of Language Acquisition**
  - Discourse ability
  - Meta-linguistic awareness
- **Second Language Acquisition**

**Later Stages of Language Acquisition:**

- **Discourse ability**
  - Children can take turns in conversations and maintain a topic over a limited number of conversational turns
  - People acquire a mature ability to converse for the exchange of information in late childhood
  - Communication skills are mastered at different ages...
  - Difference in communication skills can also be found across adult speakers of a language.
- **Meta-linguistic awareness**

In a later stage of language acquisition, **people become aware that language is** not just a means of communication, but also **an object** (e.g. the ability to perceive speech as a string of phonological units).

**Second Language Acquisition:**

- **There are similarities between first and second language acquisition** (e.g. the stages of the acquisition of bound morphemes).
- **Yet, there are limitations to SLA such as:**
  - Slower pace of acquisition, as compared to first language acquisition.
  - Ultimate attainment

**Exercise**

**People start to develop discourse ability in their late childhood, this includes:**

- A. Taking turns in conversations
- B. Crying to express anger
- C. Laughing to express joy
- D. None of the previous is correct

**The answer is A**