



Seminar on

Children's Speech Acquisition

Professor Sharynne McLeod

Children's acquisition of speech is a remarkable process. Within a few short years most children can speak intelligibly. When children acquire speech they need to learn a) how to produce vowels and consonants, b) how to put these sounds together into syllables, and c) how to use intonation, pausing, stress and tones that are appropriate for the dialect of the language(s) spoken. This presentation will commence with a description of the similarities and differences between the world's languages. Next, the presentation will provide an overview of over 250 studies that document monolingual speech acquisition in nine dialects of English and 23 languages other than English. To illustrate the sequence of acquisition from 0 to 6 years of age, combined data from English-speaking children will be provided. Finally, recommendations for examining speech acquisition in multilingual contexts will be provided. This presentation will be of interest to speech therapists and teachers who work with children.

- McLeod, S. (Ed.). (2007). *The international guide to speech acquisition*. Clifton Park, NY: Thomson Delmar Learning.
- McLeod, S. (2009). Speech sound acquisition. In J. E. Bernthal, N. W. Bankson & P. Flipsen Jnr (Eds.), *Articulation and phonological disorders: Speech sound disorders in children* (6th ed., pp. 63-120 + 385-405). Boston, MA: Pearson Education.
- McLeod, S. (2010). Laying the foundations for multilingual acquisition: An international overview of speech acquisition. In M. Cruz-Ferreira (Ed.), *Multilingual norms* (pp. 53-71). Frankfurt: Peter Lang Publishing.

DATE: 2 June, 2010 (Wednesday)

TIME: 6:30 - 7:30 pm

VENUE: Rm 518, Prince Philip Dental Hospital, 34 Hospital Road, HK

SPEAKER:

*Sharynne McLeod, Ph.D. is professor in speech and language acquisition at Charles Sturt University (CSU), Australia. She is an elected Fellow of the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association and of Speech Pathology Australia. Professor McLeod is the Vice President of the International Clinical Linguistics and Phonetics Association and is editor of the International Journal of Speech-Language Pathology. Professor McLeod provided expertise in the development of the World Health Organization's children and youth version of the International Classification of Functioning, Disability and Health. Professor McLeod's research focuses on children's speech. Her research foregrounds the right of everyone (particularly children) to participate fully in society. Recently Professor McLeod was announced as an Australian Research Council Future Fellow and has begun a four-year research program titled *Speaking my Language: International Speech Acquisition in Australia*.*



~~ All are welcome ~~