

# Re: Do Children Learn Languages at Different Rates?

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*Source:* <http://sci.tech-archive.net/Archive/sci.lang/2006-01/msg00397.html>

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Ar an seachtú lá de mí Eanair, scríobh Peter T. Daniels:

- >>> It might mean that there are some languages that children find
- >>> easier to learn than others.
- >>>
- >>> In that case, why haven't all languages evolved to be like Turkish?
- >>> (Or, more to the point, why would languages have evolved away from
- >>> the Turkish pattern?)
- >>
- >> Is this a test? :-)
- >
- > It's a reductio ad absurdum. You assume something contrary to fact,
- > discover that it leads to nonsense, so the initial assumption was false.

It leads to nonsense if you assume that there is a good reason for Darwinian selection in favour of languages slightly more easily acquired in childhood. Which assumption is shaky at best; a tribe becoming more effective as a group, in combat, say, because its two-year-olds better understand orders and can express themselves? Really!

- > I.e., we've reasoned to the understanding that no languages are easier
- > to learn natively than others.
- >
- >> Maybe ease of acquisition isn't a major consideration in linguistic
- >> change. Maybe "ease of acquisition" isn't even a factor in it at all.
- >>
- >> Also, the differences in child acquisition rates (assuming they really
- >> exist) between languages really don't appear to be all that important.
- >> Slobin says by 4 or 5 years, all children are basically speaking their
- >> native languages. So what difference would it make from the standpoint
- >> of "evolution" if a Turkish kid is grammatically fluent a few months
- >> earlier than a Russian child or an American?

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I AM IN JAIL AND ALLOWED SEND ONLY ONE CABLE SINCE WAS ARRESTED WHILE MEASURING FIFTEEN FOOT WALL OUTSIDE PALACE AND HAVE JUST FINISHED COUNTING THIRTY EIGHT THOUSAND FIVE HUNDERED TWENTY TWO NAMES WHOS WHO IN MIDEAST.

- **Follow-Ups:**
  - ◆ **Re: Do Children Learn Languages at Different Rates?**
    - ◇ From: Peter T. Daniels
  
- **References:**
  - ◆ **Do Children Learn Languages at Different Rates?**
    - ◇ From: Joseph W. Murphy
  - ◆ **Re: Do Children Learn Languages at Different Rates?**
    - ◇ From: Helmut Weber
  - ◆ **Re: Do Children Learn Languages at Different Rates?**
    - ◇ From: Joseph W. Murphy
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