

Re: Do children learn language more easily?

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- *From:* "Jim Heckman" <rot13(reply-to)@none.invalid>
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On 2-Dec-2006, Nathan Sanders <nsanders@xxxxxxxxxxxx>
wrote in message <nsanders-C7EE12.11572302122006@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx>:

[...]

Note my use of "first", not "native". The ability to learn a native language continues for a few more years (it is certainly gone by about age 10). The ability to start your *first* language does not last past about age 5.

Is it possible that the loss of the ability to learn a native language is tied to puberty, when so many other changes are occurring in the body? I've known people who learned native-level American English having come to the US as late as age 14, but none who arrived in their late teens that didn't have at least a couple of non-native tics.

Has there been any research on this specific question?

[...]

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Jim Heckman

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