



Eve Clark

Richard Lyman Professor in the Humanities, Emerita
Linguistics

 Curriculum Vitae available Online

Bio

BIO

I am interested in first language acquisition, the acquisition of meaning, acquisitional principles in word-formation compared across children and languages, and general semantic and pragmatic issues in the lexicon and in language use. I am currently working on the kinds of pragmatic information adults offer small children as they talk to them, and on children's ability to make use of this information as they make inferences about unfamiliar meanings and about the relations between familiar and unfamiliar words. I am interested in the inferences children make about where to 'place' unfamiliar words, how they identify the relevant semantic domains, and what they can learn about conventional ways to say things based on adult responses to child errors during acquisition. All of these 'activities' involve children and adults placing information in common ground as they interact. Another current interest of mine is the construction of verb paradigms: how do children go from using a single verb form to using forms that contrast in meaning -- on such dimensions as person, number, and tense? How do they learn to distinguish the meanings of homophones? To what extent do they make use of adult input to discern the underlying structure of the system? And how does conversation with more expert speakers (usually adults) foster the acquisition of a first language? I am particularly interested in the general role of practice along with feedback here.

ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

- Emeritus Faculty, Acad Council, Linguistics
- Member, Wu Tsai Neurosciences Institute

HONORS AND AWARDS

- President, International Association for the Study of Child Language (2011-2014)
- LabEx International Chair, Université de Paris-Diderot (2014)
- Fellow, Linguistic Society of America (elected 2016)
- Fellow, Cognitive Science Society (elected 2015)
- Fellow, Association for Psychological Science (elected 2007)
- Fellow, American Association for the Advancement of Science (elected 2003)
- Foreign Member, Koninklijke Nederlandse Akademie van Wetenschappen (KNAW) (elected 1991)
- Fellow, John Simon Guggenheim Memorial Foundation (1983-1984)
- Fellow, Center for Advanced Study in the Behavioral Sciences, Stanford (1979-1980)

PROGRAM AFFILIATIONS

- Symbolic Systems Program

PROFESSIONAL EDUCATION

- PhD, University of Edinburgh , Linguistics (1969)
- Diploma, University of Edinburgh , Theoretical Linguistics (1966)
- MA Hons, University of Edinburgh , French Language & Literature (1965)

Publications

PUBLICATIONS

- **Barbara F. Kelly and the study of children's multimodal language socialization** *AUSTRALIAN JOURNAL OF LINGUISTICS*
Clark, E. V., Rumsey, A.
2025
- **Comprehension leads: A commentary on Karadöller, Sümer and Özyürek** *FIRST LANGUAGE*
Clark, E. V.
2025
- **Context-Dependent Learning of Linguistic Disjunction.** *Journal of child language*
Jasbi, M., Jaggi, A., Clark, E. V., Frank, M. C.
2022: 1-36
- **A gradualist view of word meaning in language acquisition and language use** *JOURNAL OF LINGUISTICS*
Clark, E.
2022
- **Constructing a System of Communication With Gestures and Words** *GESTURE IN LANGUAGE*
Clark, E. V., Kelly, B. F.
edited by Morgenstern, A., Goldin-Meadow, S.
2022: 137-156
- **Conversational Repair and the Acquisition of Language** *DISCOURSE PROCESSES*
Clark, E. V.
2020
- **Perspective-taking and pretend-play: Precursors to figurative language use in young children** *JOURNAL OF PRAGMATICS*
Clark, E. V.
2020; 156: 100–109
- **Exposure and feedback in language acquisition: adult construals of children's early verb-form use in Hebrew.** *Journal of child language*
Lustigman, L., Clark, E. V.
2018: 1–24
- **Conversation and Language Acquisition: A Pragmatic Approach** *LANGUAGE LEARNING AND DEVELOPMENT*
Clark, E. V.
2018; 14 (3): 170–85
- **Pragmatic inferences in context: learning to interpret contrastive prosody** *JOURNAL OF CHILD LANGUAGE*
Kurumada, C., Clark, E. V.
2017; 44 (4): 850–80
- **Language in children**
Clark, E. V.
Routledge & Linguistic Society of America.2017
- **"The moustache sits down first": on the acquisition of metonymy** *JOURNAL OF CHILD LANGUAGE*
Falkum, I. L., Recasens, M., Clark, E. V.
2017; 44 (1): 87–119

- **Semantic Categories in Acquisition** *HANDBOOK OF CATEGORIZATION IN COGNITIVE SCIENCE, 2ND EDITION*
Clark, E.
edited by Cohen, H., Lefebvre, C.
2017: 397–421
- **Turn-taking, timing, and planning in early language acquisition** *JOURNAL OF CHILD LANGUAGE*
Casillas, M., Bobb, S. C., Clark, E. V.
2016; 43 (6): 1310–37
- **Early verb constructions in French: adjacency on the left edge** *JOURNAL OF CHILD LANGUAGE*
Veneziano, E., Clark, E. V.
2016; 43 (6): 1193–1230
- **First Language Acquisition**
Clark, E. V.
Cambridge University Press.2016
- **Turn-taking: a case study of early gesture and word use in answering WHERE and WHICH questions** *FRONTIERS IN PSYCHOLOGY*
Clark, E. V., Lindsey, K. L.
2015; 6
- **Pragmatics in acquisition** *JOURNAL OF CHILD LANGUAGE*
Clark, E. V.
2014; 41: 105-116
- **Constructing verb paradigms in French: adult construals and emerging grammatical contrasts** *MORPHOLOGY*
Clark, E. V., de Marneffe, M.
2012; 22 (1): 89–120
- **Using speech and gesture to introduce new objects to young children** *GESTURE*
Clark, E. V., Estigarribia, B.
2011; 11 (1): 1-23
- **Why Brush Your Teeth Is Better Than Teeth - Children's Word Production Is Facilitated in Familiar Sentence-Frames** *LANGUAGE LEARNING AND DEVELOPMENT*
Arnon, I., Clark, E. V.
2011; 7 (2): 107–29
- **Children Build on Pragmatic Information in Language Acquisition** *LANGUAGE AND LINGUISTICS COMPASS*
Clark, E. V., Amaral, P.
2010; 4 (7): 445–57
- **Gender, noun classification, and agreement: Commentary on "Gender attribution and gender agreement in 4-to 10-year-old French children" by Yves Boloh and Laure Ibernou** *COGNITIVE DEVELOPMENT*
Clark, E. V.
2010; 25 (1): 26–29
- **One vs. more than one: antecedents to plural marking in early language acquisition** *LINGUISTICS*
Clark, E. V., Nikitina, T. V.
2009; 47 (1): 103-139
- **What Shapes Children's Language? Child-Directed Speech, Conventionality, and the Process of Acquisition** *ROUTES TO LANGUAGE: STUDIES IN HONOR OF MELISSA BOWERMAN*
Clark, E. V.
edited by MuellerGathercole, V. C.
2009: 233–54
- **Acquiring language: Issues and questions** *FIRST LANGUAGE ACQUISITION, 2ND EDITION*
Clark, E. V., Clark, E.
2009: 1-+

- **In conversation with children** *FIRST LANGUAGE ACQUISITION, 2ND EDITION*
Clark, E. V., Clark, E.
2009: 21–50
- **Starting on language: Perception** *FIRST LANGUAGE ACQUISITION, 2ND EDITION*
Clark, E. V., Clark, E.
2009: 51–74
- **Early words** *FIRST LANGUAGE ACQUISITION, 2ND EDITION*
Clark, E. V., Clark, E.
2009: 75–93
- **Sounds in words: Production** *FIRST LANGUAGE ACQUISITION, 2ND EDITION*
Clark, E. V., Clark, E.
2009: 94–121
- **Words and meanings** *FIRST LANGUAGE ACQUISITION, 2ND EDITION*
Clark, E. V., Clark, E.
2009: 122–47
- **First combinations, first constructions** *FIRST LANGUAGE ACQUISITION, 2ND EDITION*
Clark, E. V., Clark, E.
2009: 151–75
- **Modulating word meanings** *FIRST LANGUAGE ACQUISITION, 2ND EDITION*
Clark, E. V., Clark, E.
2009: 176–98
- **Adding complexity within clauses** *FIRST LANGUAGE ACQUISITION, 2ND EDITION*
Clark, E. V., Clark, E.
2009: 199–228
- **Combining clauses: More complex constructions** *FIRST LANGUAGE ACQUISITION, 2ND EDITION*
Clark, E. V., Clark, E.
2009: 229–53
- **Constructing words** *FIRST LANGUAGE ACQUISITION, 2ND EDITION*
Clark, E. V., Clark, E.
2009: 254–78
- **Honing conversational skills** *FIRST LANGUAGE ACQUISITION, 2ND EDITION*
Clark, E. V., Clark, E.
2009: 281–305
- **Doing things with language** *FIRST LANGUAGE ACQUISITION, 2ND EDITION*
Clark, E. V., Clark, E.
2009: 306–35
- **Acquisition and change** *FIRST LANGUAGE ACQUISITION, 2ND EDITION*
Clark, E. V., Clark, E.
2009: 378–400
- **Specialization for language** *FIRST LANGUAGE ACQUISITION, 2ND EDITION*
Clark, E. V., Clark, E.
2009: 357–77
- **Two languages at a time** *FIRST LANGUAGE ACQUISITION, 2ND EDITION*
Clark, E. V., Clark, E.
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- **Lexical meaning** *CAMBRIDGE HANDBOOK OF CHILD LANGUAGE*
Clark, E. V.
edited by Bavin, E. L.
2009: 283–99
- **Repetition as ratification: How parents and children place information in common ground** *JOURNAL OF CHILD LANGUAGE*
Clark, E. V., Bernicot, J.
2008; 35 (2): 349-371
- **Getting and maintaining attention in talk to young children** *JOURNAL OF CHILD LANGUAGE*
Estigarribia, B., Clark, E. V.
2007; 34 (4): 799-814
- **Young children's uptake of new words in conversation** *LANGUAGE IN SOCIETY*
Clark, E. V.
2007; 36 (2): 157-182
- **Conventionality and contrast in language and language acquisition.** *New directions for child and adolescent development*
Clark, E. V.
2007: 11-23
- **Color, reference, and expertise in language acquisition** *JOURNAL OF EXPERIMENTAL CHILD PSYCHOLOGY*
Clark, E. V.
2006; 94 (4): 339-343
- **Repetition and the acquisition of the language** *LINGUISTIQUE*
Clark, E. V.
2006; 42 (2): 67-79
- **Actions and results in the acquisition of Cantonese verbs** *HANDBOOK OF EAST ASIAN PSYCHOLINGUISTICS, VOL 1: CHINESE*
Cheung, S., Clark, E. V.
edited by Li, P., Tan, L. H., Bates, E., Tzeng, O. J.
2006: 13–22
- **RESULTANT STATES IN EARLY LANGUAGE ACQUISITION** *PERSPECTIVES ON LANGUAGE AND LANGUAGE DEVELOPMENT*
Clark, E. V.
edited by Ravid, D. D., Shyldrot, H. B.
2005: 175–90
- **How language acquisition builds on cognitive development** *TRENDS IN COGNITIVE SCIENCES*
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2004; 8 (10): 472-478
- **Adult reformulations of child errors as negative evidence** *JOURNAL OF CHILD LANGUAGE*
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2003; 30 (3): 637-669
- **Languages and Representations** *LANGUAGE IN MIND: ADVANCES IN THE STUDY OF LANGUAGE AND THOUGHT*
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edited by Gentner, D., GoldinMeadow, S.
2003: 17–24
- **Pragmatic directions and children's word learning** *JOURNAL OF CHILD LANGUAGE*
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1998; 25 (1): 1-18
- **Conceptual perspective and lexical choice in acquisition** *COGNITION*
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- **Reference states and reversals: Undoing actions with verbs** *JOURNAL OF CHILD LANGUAGE*
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1995; 22 (3): 633-662
- **ON THE PRAGMATICS OF CONTRAST** *JOURNAL OF CHILD LANGUAGE*
Clark, E. V.
1990; 17 (2): 417-431
- **WHEN NOUNS SURFACE AS VERBS** *LANGUAGE*
Clark, E. V., Clark, H. H.
1979; 55 (4): 767-811
- **NORMAL STATES AND EVALUATIVE VIEWPOINTS** *LANGUAGE*
Clark, E. V.
1974; 50 (2): 316-332