

Linguistic knowledge possessed by human being at birth

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Critical analysis tends to show that human beings can possess linguistics knowledge at birth. The innate skills in linguistics are increasingly referred to as nativism. However, the position is contended by critics who argue that human skills in linguistics are data-driven and that learning plays a critical role in the process. This position suggests that children can only learn a language from the environmental stimulus. This conclusively states that children have no linguistic knowledge at birth.

The theory of nativism has increasingly come under criticism. However, there are no plausible alternatives given to the theory. The critics have failed to deny the nativism theory itself (Wright, 2010). Arguably, the possession of linguistic knowledge at birth, and the nature of that knowledge have not been proved beyond doubt. The concept is perceived to be a healthy assumption in light of the data available and the increasing understanding of the global community (Allwright & Hanks, 2009). This suggests that the burden of proof should be left to the critics of the theory.

There is an assumption by this theory that adults converge on the same interpretation of what is or is not grammatical. The presumption says that the different languages have similar judgments on the grammaticality of the speakers (Allwright & Hanks, 2009). Therefore, the linguistic knowledge of human beings is natural and inborn. The nature of the innate linguistics knowledge incorporates the understanding of lingual concepts at the foundational level (Golinkoff & Hirsh-Pasek, 1999). This is to suggest that any fine-tuning of the language does not overrule the innate linguistics

knowledge. The grammaticality of a language refers to whatever a native speaker can consider being a possible use of linguistics communication (Golinkoff & Hirsh-Pasek, 1999). This possibility is pragmatic and not logical.