

Revisiting First Language Acquisition through Empirical and Rational Perspectives

By

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Abstract

Acquisition in general and first language acquisition in particular is a very complex and a multi-faceted phenomenon. The way that children acquire a language in a very limited period is astonishing. Various approaches have been proposed so far to account for this extraordinary phenomenon. These approaches are indeed based on various philosophical positions that might have quite different underlying assumptions. In the present paper, major approaches to first language acquisition, i.e., empiricism and nativism are reviewed and critically evaluated.

Keywords: *First language acquisition, approach, empiricism, rationalism.*