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Language development over the lifespan, a dynamic perspective

Dynamic Systems Theory is a relatively new approach to development in general and second language development in particular. Its strength lies in the connection it allows us to make between sociolinguistic and psycholinguistic aspects of language development. It is a radical break with traditional research in the sense that it looks at developing system as a whole, including the interaction between an individual and her environment. Simple single factor causality does not work in this type of thinking, and more generally, well-established concepts like causality and generalizability are questionable. The rejection of such notions has far-reaching consequences for how we can and cannot study second language development.

<http://www.institute-multilingualism.ch/en/>