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Abstract

This book offers a psycholinguistic approach to child language disorders. Based on data from Clinical Linguistics and Psycholinguistics, it discusses topics in typical and atypical language development. The book starts with an introduction to Clinical Linguistics followed by a discussion of the main characteristics of some disorders. The next three chapters focus on language difficulties associated with vocabulary, speech processing and phonological awareness. Evidence of the relationship between language difficulties, reading difficulties, and psychosocial difficulties is then presented. The closing chapter discusses the social dimensions of language disorders. Through this structure, the book adopts a broad psycholinguistic approach to language and communication difficulties, which considers not only the child's strengths, difficulties and overall development but also linguistic interactions and communication in the child's environment. The book is addressed to students and researchers with an interest in Linguistics and Clinical Linguistics. At the same time, because of its interdisciplinary nature and the themes covered, it is also addressed to students of other disciplines, such as Health Sciences, Education and Child Development, and Psychology. As this is intended to be an open-access book dealing with a topic that directly or indirectly appeals to the broader society, it is hoped that eventually, it will also be of interest to parents, educators, and people with a genuine interest and a desire to find out more about some aspects of child language development and disorders.



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