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Round Table, May 1990*

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## Front Matter

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UNIVERSITY OF MASSACHUSETTS OCCASIONAL PAPERS  
Special Edition

**PAPERS IN THE ACQUISITION OF WH:  
PROCEEDINGS OF THE UMASS ROUNDTABLE, MAY 1990**

1991

Edited by  
Thomas L. Maxfield  
Bernadette Plunkett



We dedicate this volume to all the children, parents and teachers who have helped in providing the UMass Wh Acquisition Project with data over the last two and a half years. These include the five children who participated in the Diary Project and their parents who participated in the collection of data and many children from the following schools and daycare centers which participated in our experiments:

The Common School, Amherst, MA  
The Cushman Hill Children's Center, Amherst, MA  
The Day Care Center at the University of Puerto Rico,  
Rio Piedras, Puerto Rico  
The Ecoles Maternelles 'Avon-Centre' and 'Bellevue' in  
Avon, France  
The Evangelischen Kindergärten, Blumentalstrasse,  
Gatherweg, Fürstenwall, and Fliednerstrasse,  
Düsseldorf and Kaiserwerth, Germany  
Grassroots Day School at UMass, Amherst, MA  
Hogar Montessori de Santa Domingo, Dominican Republic  
Kyoto Nishiyama Yoochien, Japan  
Kyoto Shirayari Gakudoo Hoikusho, Japan  
The Little Red School House, Amherst, MA  
The Madre Cabrini Elementary School, Puerto Rico  
Nonotuck Community Child Care Center, Northampton, MA  
The Red Wing School, Amherst, MA  
Sand Hill Day Care, Amherst, MA  
Smith College Campus School at Fort Hill, Northampton,  
MA  
Smith College Child Care Center at Sunnyside,  
Northampton, MA  
Shutesbury Elementary School, Shutesbury, MA  
Shutesbury Preschool, Shutesbury, MA  
Tsukimigaoka Kodomo-no Ie, Japan

A NOTE FROM THE EDITORS

This volume consists of revised versions of papers presented at the UMass Roundtable on the Acquisition of Wh, which took place at Amherst in May, 1990 as well as the 'Bound Variable' paper which also appears in the proceeding of the May 1989 Groningen conference on Language and Knowledge. The Acquisition Project has made wide use of the CHILDES database (for details, see B. MacWhinney & C. Snow, "The child language data exchange system", *Journal of Child Language* 12, 1985). This volume contains details of most of the work accomplished in the first half of the NSF grant # NSF-BNS-8820314 to Thomas Roeper and Jill de Villiers ('The Acquisition of WH Questions: Evidence from Converging Methodologies'). The editing and production of this volume has been officially supported by both the NSF grant and the Psycholinguistics Training grant NIH # HD 07327 to Lyn Frazier and Charles Clifton and unofficially supported by the many members of the Linguistics Department who have put up with our monopolizing much used departmental printers and computers in the many hours over many months it has taken us to complete the editing of this volume. The Wh Acquisition Project and this volume would, of course, never have come into being without Tom and Jill, to whom special thanks are due. We don't think they realized that linguists have so much to learn about children's Wh questions that many more than three years are required to come to a complete understanding of their acquisition of them. But mostly we would like to thank each other; "You are the only person who understands . . .".

TABLE OF CONTENTS

<b>Introduction: Acquisition of WH-Movement</b> Jill de Villiers & Thomas Roeper . . . . .	1
<b>Inversion in the Embedded Clause</b> Meike Weverink . . . . .	19
<b>The Acquisition of WH-Movement in German and French</b> Jürgen Weissenborn, Thomas Roeper & Jill de Villiers . . . . .	43
<b>The Acquisition of WH-Movement in Caribbean Spanish</b> Ana Teresa Perez-Leroux . . . . .	79
<b>What do Children Know Without Learning?</b> Thomas L. Maxfield & Dana McDaniel . . . . .	101
<b>Inversion and Early WH Questions</b> Bernadette Plunkett . . . . .	125
<b>Why Questions?</b> Jill de Villiers . . . . .	155
<b>How a Marked Parameter is Chosen: Adverbs and Do- Insertion in the IP of Child Grammar</b> Thomas Roeper . . . . .	175
<b>Children Answer Echo Questions <u>How</u>?</b> Thomas L. Maxfield . . . . .	203
<b>The Acquisition of Echo Questions</b> Mari Takahashi . . . . .	213
<b>The Emergence of Bound Variable Structures</b> Thomas Roeper & Jill de Villiers . . . . .	225
<b>Quantifier Spreading: Pilot Study of Preschooler's "Every"</b> Bill Philip & Sabina Aurelio . . . . .	267
<b>Quantifier Spreading in the Acquisition of <u>Every</u></b> Bill Philip & Mari Takahashi . . . . .	283
<b>Children's Interpretation of Sentences Containing <u>Every</u></b> Mari Takahashi . . . . .	303
<b>A Note on Developmental Syntax</b> Juan Uriagereka . . . . .	329