# Chapter 4 Further Readings

(Note: This bibliography will be updated regularly.)

### Early speech perception and language acquisition

This review article provides a “big picture” summary of the language learning that takes place during the first year of an infant’s life:

Gervain, J., & Mehler, J. (2010) Speech perception and language acquisition in the first year of life. Annual Review of Psychology, 61, 191–218.

### Perceptual narrowing

As we saw in Chapter 4, young babies appear to be born with the capacity to make a number of fine sound discriminations, but if the language they are exposed to does not make use of those contrasts, they can “lose” this sensitivity. This paper explores a similar phenomenon in processing visual information about handshape contrasts that are important for American Sign Language (ASL):

Palmer, S. B., Fais, L., Golinkoff, R. M., & Werker, J. F. (2012) Perceptual narrowing of linguistic sign occurs in the 1st year of life. Child Development, 83, 543–553.

### Learning about sound categories

When babies learn their native language, how do they cope with exposure to different dialects of the same language when these dialects can sometimes diverge quite a bit in their pronunciation? This paper explores how infants learn to “stretch” their sound categories to include the sounds of dialects that are different from their own:

Best, C. T., Tyler, M. D., Gooding, T. N., Orlando, C. B., & Quann, C. A. (2009) Development of phonological constancy: Toddlers’ perception of native- and Jamaican-accented words. Psychological Science, 20, 539–542.

### Statistical learning

Does learning the statistical patterns inherent in previously heard stimuli involve different learning mechanisms than learning rules, which can be applied to forms that have never been heard? This is a dichotomy that you will come across in some of the later chapters. The following paper provides a brief discussion of the controversy:

Aslin, R., N., & Newport, E. L. (2013) Statistical learning: From acquiring specific items to forming general rules. Current Directions in Psychological Science, 21, 170–176.

### The phonetics of beatboxing

This interesting article uses MRI to explore the ways in which a beatboxer recruits speech mechanisms to produce nonlinguistic beatboxing sounds:

Proctor, M., Bresch, E., Byrd, D., Nayak, K., & Narayanan, S. (2013) Paralinguistics mechanisms of production in human “beatboxing”: A real-time magnetic resonance imaging study. Journal of the Acoustical Society of America, 133, 1043–1054.

### Infant-directed speech

In Chapter 4, we did not deal with the question of whether infant-directed speech (or “baby talk”) helps children learn the sounds of their language. However, there is a rich body of research that looks at this. The following paper provides a good starting-point for this line of research:

Soderstrom, M. (2007) Beyond babytalk: Re-evaluating the nature and content of speech input to preverbal infants. Developmental Review, 27, 501–532.

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