

Contents

Foreword	v
Acknowledgements	vii
1 INTRODUCTION	1
2 EVIDENCE OF SPEECH MILESTONES	8
Introductory.....	8
The very early stages	9
Later stages	14
Speech processing milestones.....	22
Evidence from abnormal language development and language disorders.....	26
Summary	36
3 THE CRITICAL PERIOD HYPOTHESIS: FIRST LANGUAGE-RELATED EVIDENCE	38
Introductory.....	38
The onset of the critical period	39
The end of the critical period	45
First language development after puberty.....	54
A decline into the vale of years?.....	59
Summary	78
4 THE CRITICAL PERIOD HYPOTHESIS: SECOND LANGUAGE EVIDENCE	80
Introductory.....	80
The 'younger = better' position	81
The 'older = better' position	94
The 'younger = better at acquiring accent/BICS' position	107
The 'younger = better in the long run' position.....	116

Age and the second language learning process.....	122
Summary	137
5 THEORETICAL PERSPECTIVES	139
Introductory.....	139
The ageing of the senses	140
Age and competition between languages	144
Neurolinguistics and the critical period	154
Cognitive developmental views	177
Affect and motivation.....	189
Age and input	207
The 'de-coupling' hypothesis	215
The age factor and nativism.....	221
Summary	227
6 THE EDUCATIONAL DIMENSION.....	234
Introductory.....	234
Second languages in the early school years	234
Second languages for the 'young-old'.....	248
Summary	262
7 CONCLUDING REMARKS.....	265
Bibliography	268
Index	312