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(Forum 7)

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A first foray into Qaqet children's feedback signals

Feedback occupies a central position in the field of language acquisition, where it is understood to facilitate language learning.

One strand of literature has focused on how adult language users, particularly mothers, orient to and "correct" problems in the speech of children (Clark 2020). But feedback signals have many other functions. Adult listeners are understood to be active participants in conversation who co-construct talk through their response tokens (Gardner 2001). How children learn to engage in feedback-giving practices, thereby signaling their active participation, is an open question for developmental pragmatics. As an inroad into this topic, this talk presents a first foray into children's use of feedback signals in Qaqet (Papua New Guinea).

Birgit Hellwig is Professor of Linguistics at the University of Cologne, where she combines language documentation with psycholinguistic and anthropological approaches, researching language acquisition and socialization in diverse socio-cultural settings. She is currently working with the Qaqet in Papua New Guinea (for more information, see <https://qaqet.phil-fak.uni-koeln.de/>), and she continues to be interested in the documentation and description of the adult language, researching Goemai (a Chadic language of Nigeria), Katla (a Niger-Congo language of Sudan) and Tabaq (a Nilo-Saharan language of Sudan).

Weitere Informationen: www.ifeas.uni-mainz.de



Book cover: Birgit Hellwig, Shanley E. M. Allen, Lucinda Davidson, Rebecca Defina, Barbara F. Kelly & Evan Kidd (eds). *The acquisition sketch project. (Language Documentation and Conservation Special Publication, 28.)* Honolulu 2023: University of Hawai'i Press.

<https://nflrc.hawaii.edu/lc/sp28/>

Institutskolloquium Wintersemester 2023/24

Leitung: Nico Nassenstein

JG|U