

Contents

	Tables	9
	Preface	13
Chapter 1	Introduction	19
	<i>Children's Communication Skills</i>	21
	<i>Measures of Syntactic Development</i>	24
	<i>Language Observations: Structured and Unstructured</i>	26
	<i>Overview of the Book</i>	29
Chapter 2	Methodology: Tapping Syntactic Abilities	31
	<i>Item Selection and Pilot Testing</i>	31
	<i>Second Testing</i>	33
	<i>Final Testing and Standardization</i>	35
	<i>Data on Individual Structures</i>	47
	<i>Caveats</i>	49
	<i>Summary</i>	51

Contents

Chapter 3	Noun Phrase Structures	52
	Noun + Plural	52
	Noun + Possessive	56
	Possessive Pronoun	61
	Subject Pronouns: Gender	64
	Determiner + Count Noun or Mass Noun	68
	Direct and Indirect Objects	74
	Reciprocal	83
Chapter 4	Verb Phrase Structures	88
	Habitual Present Tense	88
	Past Tense	92
	Subject-Copula Agreement: Present Tense	97
	Progressives: Present and Past	102
	Passive	109
	Modal Auxiliaries	115
Chapter 5	Propositional Structures	128
	Infinitive Complement	128
	Relative Clause	131
	Secondary Conjunction	138
	Nominalization	148
	Action Nominalization	155
Chapter 6	Negative and Comparative Structures	159
	Simple Sentence Negation	159
	Indeterminate in a Negative Context	163
	Comparative and Superlative	168
Chapter 7	Patterns of Language Growth	177
	Structure Acquisition	177
	Intermediate Stages in Structure Usage	186
	Summary	192

Contents

Chapter 8	Exploring Theoretical Conceptions	194
	<i>Roger Brown: Cumulative Complexity</i>	195
	<i>David McNeill: Transformational Scope</i>	198
	<i>Lois Bloom: Variation and Reduction</i>	202
	<i>T. G. Bever: Perceptual Strategies of Comprehension</i>	208
	Summary	210
	Epilogue	212
	Appendix: Tables Relating to the Methodology	217
	References	223
	Index	231