

CONTENTS

Introduction	1
1. Evolutionary Beginnings—The Phylogenesis of the Human Propensity for Speech	8
2. Ethological Foundations—The Origins of Imprinting	32
3. The Coming of Age—Evidence for the Emergence of Foreign Accents at Puberty	47
4. Genes and Teens—Sociobiological Explanations for the Presence of Accents After Puberty	68
5. The Influence of Environment—Nonbiological Explanations for a Critical Period	84
6. The Tide of Time—The Emergence of Phonological Constraints at Puberty	102
7. Nature's Cruel and Unusual Experiments—Limitations on Language Learning in Feral Children	124
8. Arguments and Counterarguments—More Nonbiological Explanations for a Critical Period	140
9. Questions, Consequences, and Conclusions—A Summary of What We Know and What We Have Yet to Learn	164
References	187
Name Index	197
Subject Index	203