DESCRIPTION

This authoritative handbook explores the latest integrated theory for understanding human language, offering the most inclusive text yet published on the rapidly evolving emergentist paradigm.

- Brings together an international team of contributors, including the most prominent advocates of linguistic emergentism
- Focuses on the ways in which the learning, processing, and structure of language emerge from a competing set of cognitive, communicative, and biological constraints
- Examines forces on widely divergent timescales, from instantaneous neurolinguistic processing to historical changes and language evolution
- Addresses key theoretical, empirical, and methodological issues, making this handbook the most rigorous examination of emergentist linguistic theory ever

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Brian MacWhinney is Professor of Psychology, Computational Linguistics, and Modern Languages at Carnegie Mellon University. He has published extensively over many decades, and developed the Competition Model of first- and second-language acquisition, processing, and disorders, which shows how language learning emerges from forces operating on lexically-based patterns.

**William O’Grady** is Professor of Linguistics at the University of Hawaii. He has undertaken extensive research in syntax and language acquisition, focusing more recently on the importance of processing for an understanding of how language works and how it is acquired. He is the author of numerous volumes including *Principles of Grammar and Learning* (1987), *Syntactic Development* (1997), and *How Children Learn Language* (2005). His book, *Syntactic Carpentry* (2005), sets out his ideas on the centrality of the processor in language acquisition.

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