

Contents

Acknowledgements — vii

1 Introduction — 1

- 1.1 Language acquisition from a functional perspective — 1
- 1.2 Overview of the book — 3

2 Lexical vs. functional elements — 9

- 2.1 Structure in language — 9
- 2.2 Language structure in production — 15
 - 2.2.1 Phrase structure — 15
 - 2.2.1.1 Lexical selection — 15
 - 2.2.1.2 Phrasal coherence — 15
 - 2.2.2 Utterance structure — 16
 - 2.2.2.1 Perspective taking — 16
 - 2.2.2.2 Contextual embedding — 19
 - 2.2.2.3 Lexical categories — 21
 - 2.2.2.4 Functional categories — 21
 - 2.2.3 Word formation — 22
 - 2.2.3.1 Derivation, inherent and contextual inflection — 24
 - 2.2.3.2 Lexical and functional categories of word formation — 26
 - 2.3 Learner systems — 30
 - 2.3.1 Utterance structure at the initial stage — 31
 - 2.3.2 Word formation at the initial stage — 33
 - 2.4 First and second language acquisition — 34
 - 2.5 Research questions — 37
 - 2.6 Data sources — 38

3 The Target System — 41

- 3.1 Introduction — 41
- 3.2 Utterance structure — 42
 - 3.2.1 Basic word order — 42
 - 3.2.2 Word order variation — 46
 - 3.2.3 Information structure and lexical meaning — 50
 - 3.2.3.1 VP structure — 52
 - 3.2.3.2 FP structure — 52
 - 3.2.3.3 The function of F — 53
 - 3.2.3.4 Movement — 55
 - 3.2.4 Summary — 56

3.3	Utterance production — 56
3.3.1	Conceptualization, lexicalization and predication — 57
3.3.1.1	Conceptualization — 57
3.3.1.2	Lexicalization — 58
3.3.1.3	Predication — 62
3.3.2	Expressing finiteness and contextual embedding — 66
3.3.2.1	The semantic function of finiteness — 66
3.3.2.1.1	Truth value — 66
3.3.2.2	Anchoring — 70
3.3.2.2.1	Temporal anchoring — 71
3.3.2.2.2	Spatial anchoring — 72
3.3.2.3	The function of SpecFP — 74
3.3.3	Summary — 77
3.4	Hypotheses on language development — 78

4 The initial state — 79

4.1	Finiteness at the initial state — 79
4.2	Theoretical accounts — 80
4.2.1	Morpho-syntactic systems — 82
4.2.1.1	Poeppel and Wexler (1993), Wexler (1998) — 82
4.2.1.2	Discussion — 84
4.2.2	Semantic systems — 87
4.2.2.1	Clahsen (1986) — 87
4.2.2.2	Discussion — 88
4.2.2.3	Ingram and Thompson (1996) — 90
4.2.2.4	Discussion — 92
4.2.3	Summary — 95
4.3	The alternative — 99
4.4	Summary — 109

5 The lexical stage — 111

5.1	Basic languages, research questions — 111
5.2	The analysis of early learner data — 115
5.3	Utterance structure at the lexical stage — 124
5.3.1	Lexical projections — 124
5.3.2	Testing the model: ergatives and particle verbs — 129
5.3.2.1	Ergatives — 130
5.3.2.2	Particle verbs — 131

5.3.3	Word order — 134
5.3.3.1	Subject first — 135
5.3.3.2	Topic first — 136
5.3.3.3	Head-initial — 138
5.3.4	Summary — 141
5.4	Conflicting constraints — 145
5.5	Conclusion — 150
5.6	From the lexical stage to the functional stage — 153

6 The functional stage — 155

6.1	The acquisition of the projection of F — 155
6.1.1	Utterance structure at the lexical stage — 155
6.1.2	Towards a functional topic position — 157
6.1.3	Towards a grammatical subject position — 162
6.2	Evidence of the projection of F — 164
6.2.1	The functional topic position — 164
6.2.2	The functional category F — 168
6.2.2.1	Analysis of the modal expressions ‘ulle’, ‘mag-ikke’ and ‘nee’ — 168
6.2.2.2	Analysis of the unanalysed modal expressions — 169
6.2.2.3	Epistemic modals — 170
6.2.2.4	The auxiliary verbs ‘heb, heeft’ and ‘ben, is’ — 172
6.2.2.5	The auxiliary verbs ‘doe, doet’ and ‘ga, gaat’ — 178
6.2.3	Topicalization — 179
6.3	The topic position — 182
6.3.1	The affix in F as a topicalization device — 182
6.3.2	<i>Yes/no-</i> and <i>wh</i> -questions — 184
6.3.3	Verb-third in adult L2 — 187
6.4	Finiteness — 191
6.4.1	Auxiliary verbs — 191
6.4.1.1	Verb placement — 191
6.4.1.2	‘Light verbs’ — 193
6.4.1.3	Morphological properties of finiteness in L2 Dutch — 197
6.4.2	Grammatical aspect — 199
6.4.3	Tense — 208
6.4.4	Agreement — 208
6.5	Summary — 209

7	Finiteness in language acquisition research — 211
7.1	Finiteness in first language research — 211
7.1.1	L1 Dutch: Gillis (2003) — 211
7.1.2	L1 German: Bittner (2003) — 215
7.1.3	Summary — 222
7.2	Finiteness in second language research — 223
7.2.1	Verb placement and inflectional morphology — 223
7.2.1.1	The contingency between verb placement and morphology — 223
7.2.1.2	Methodological questions — 224
7.2.1.3	Verb placement and inflectional morphology in second language research — 226
7.2.2	Restrictions on the contingency between verb placement and inflection — 226
7.2.2.1	Parodi (1998, 2000) — 226
7.2.3	The dissociation of verb placement and inflection: The Impaired Representation Hypothesis — 229
7.2.3.1	Meisel (1997) — 229
7.2.4	The separation of verb placement and inflection: The Missing Surface Inflection Hypothesis — 231
7.2.4.1	Prévost and White (2000) — 231
7.2.5	The acquisition of auxiliaries as a prerequisite for verb movement — 234
7.2.6	The stagewise acquisition of the functional category system — 237
7.2.6.1	Rule and Marsden (2006) — 237
7.2.6.2	Vainikka and Young-Scholten (1996, 2011): The Organic Grammar approach — 239
7.2.6.3	Becker (2005) — 242
7.2.7	Summary — 248
7.2.7.1	The contingency between verb placement and morphology — 249
7.2.7.2	The acquisition of the auxiliary as a carrier of finiteness — 250
8	Conclusion — 253
8.1	Basic languages — 253
8.2	The lexical stage — 253
8.3	The functional stage — 262
8.4	Driving forces — 267
References — 271	
Index — 277	