

**Tel-Aviv University
The School of Philosophy, Linguistics and Science Studies
Department of Linguistics**

THURSDAY INTERDISCIPLINARY COLLOQUIUM

**Thursday 3.6.2021
16:15-17:45**

**Stav Klein
Tel Aviv University**

Like Father, Like Son, Like Father: Investigating Developmental Stages in Child-Directed Speech

There is a rich body of research showing that language-acquiring children exhibit distinct developmental phases (Lustigman (2016), Ben-David & Bat-El (2016), Shufaniya & Arnon (2018), to mention a few). However, child-directed speech (CDS) of adults is generally treated as a single or unitary phenomenon, as an agent promoting or underlying for the language acquisition process (Arnon (2016)). In this talk, I present a case study in Hebrew and argue for the existence of developmental stages in CDS.

To justify this claim I show a usage-based analysis of the CDS data in which I collected occurrences of morpho-syntactic elements and compared their distribution to the findings from a cross-sectional study of 40 children done by Kaplan (1985), which investigated the stages of acquisition of morpho-syntactic elements.

Findings show that the usage of morpho-syntactic elements in the CDS peaks during or slightly before the element is acquired by children. Thus, seeing that the adult usage of an element precedes its acquisition, such findings can be used as a base for a predictive model for acquisition (or lack thereof) of early grammar elements.

Click [here](#) to see the colloquium program for the Spring semester

YOU ARE ALL INVITED