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Language Acquisition within Meaning First

I will discuss how the task of the learner can be characterized within the Meaning First approach and discuss some data that are compatible with some tenets of this approach. In particular, I will discuss one major problem that the learner faces, namely encoding of conceptual structures into language and a guiding principle adopted in solving it, the principle of transparency. In this connection, I will discuss three sets of data: from production, comprehension of language and cross-linguistic variation in the learning path and show how these data follow from that principle. In so doing, I will focus on some commission errors that children commit. Finally, I will discuss some alternatives approaches.