

The influence of aptitude on attainment of phonology in Second Language Acquisition
(provisional title, dissertation project)

Giuliana-Vittoria Thomanek

Mentoring: Prof. Dr. Sabine Arndt-Lappe

The center of my dissertation project is the concept of *language aptitude* for second language acquisition. Here, the acquisition of phonology and intonation in particular are of most interest to me. The main goal of the project is testing the factors non-verbal intelligence and working memory with regards to their suitability as correlates for language aptitude.

Thus, a study that records production and perception of emphatic and contrastive stress is completed by a questionnaire for the participants' linguistic background, education etc as well as some aspects of the Geschwind-Galaburda Hypothesis.

Ideally, this project will bring us a step closer towards understanding the concept of language aptitude in order to identify which characteristics are related to talent/ aptitude for phonological acquisition of a second language.

email: s2githom@uni-trier.de