



Centre for Research in Language Development
Throughout the Lifespan (LADELI)

DISTINGUISHED SPEAKER SERIES – PUBLIC LECTURE

Essex Business School,
Lecture Theatre 2.34
Monday 25 April 2016

5 – 6pm

Followed by a wine reception
from 6 – 7pm

All welcome

Free event, but email ladeli@essex.ac.uk to book a place



Professor Annick De Houwer
University of Erfurt

[https://www.uni-erfurt.de/en/linguistics/
language-acquisition-and-multilingualism/](https://www.uni-erfurt.de/en/linguistics/language-acquisition-and-multilingualism/)

**The earlier, the better? A real life perspective
on early bilingual development and its
implications for later language learning**

Abstract:

It is often claimed that all “normally developing” children reach “full” proficiency in their first language. This claim ignores the fact that children with two first languages often develop high levels of proficiency in only one of their languages, and not in the other. They may even show signs of language attrition before they reach primary school. Such findings challenge the notion that being exposed to a language early in life automatically leads to successful language learning. In my talk, I will explore other reasons besides learner age that can explain early successful language learning (or the lack of it). Based on these, I will formulate implications for successful language learning later in life.



University of Essex