EVENT KNOWLEDGE

Structure and Function in Development

Technische Hochschule Darmstadt
Fachbereich 3
Institut für Psychologie
Steubenplatz 12, 6100 Darmstadt

KATHERINE NELSON
Graduate School and University Center
City University of New York

Inv.-Nr. 9108698

In collaboration with:
Janice Gruendel, Elizabeth A. Slackman, Judith A. Hudson, Robyn Fivush, Lucia A. French, Joan Lucariello, Amy Kyratzis, Susan Engel, Susan Seidman, Anthony Rifkin, Catherine Constable

LAWRENCE ERLBAUM ASSOCIATES, PUBLISHERS
1986 Hillsdale, New Jersey London

Contents

Preface ix

1. **Event Knowledge and Cognitive Development**
Katherine Nelson **1**
Event Representation 2
Event Structure and Event Representations 11
Script Theory 13
Developmental Implications and Research Questions 17
Plan of the Book 18

2. **Children's Scripts**
Katherine Nelson and Janice Gruendel **21**
Evidence for Children's Scripts—The First Studies 25
Summary and Conclusions 44
Acknowledgment 46

3. **Actions, Actors, Links, and Goals: The Structure of Children's Event Representations**
Elizabeth A. Slackman, Judith A. Hudson, and Robyn Fivush **47**
The Script Model of Event Representations 48
Events as Experienced by Children 54
Structural Characteristics of Children's Event Representations 57
Summary and Implications 68

4. **The Acquisition and Development of Scripts**
Robyn Fivush and Elizabeth A. Slackman **71**
Theoretical Assumptions 72
Script Acquisition 77
Script Development 80
General Conclusions 94

5. **Memories are Made of This: General Event Knowledge and Development of Autobiographic Memory**
Judith A. Hudson **97**
A Model of General and Specific Event Representation 98
Autobiographic Memory Development in Children 101
Study 1: "What Happened Yesterday?": Recall of Recent Events 105
Study 2: "What Happened One Time?": Recall of Novel and Familiar Events 111
Study 3: "What Happened at the Jewish Museum?": Monitoring the Fate of a Particular Episodic Memory 115
GERS and Autobiographic Memory: What Develops? 117

6. **The Language of Events**
Lucia A. French **119**
Interview Setting 123
Event Descriptions as a Discourse Format 123
Syntactic Form 125
Optional Pathways 126
Temporal Structure 128
Relational Terms 130
Summary and Conclusions 135

7. **Event Representations, Context, and Language**
Joan Lucariello, Amy Kyratzis, and Susan Engel **137**
The Effect of Different Interactive Contexts on Language Use 140
The Decontextualization of Word Meaning within an Event Context 147
The Role of Interactive Context in Establishing Cognitive Context 151
General Conclusions 159

8. **Make Believe Scripts: The Transformation of ERs in Fantasy**
Susan Seidman, Katherine Nelson, and Janice Gruendel **161**
Script-Based Stories 162
The Use of Scripts in Play 171
Scripts for Play and Realistic Events 172
Event Knowledge in the Creation of Pretend Play 179
Play and Stories as Symbolic Developments 185

9. **Event Representations as the Basis for Categorical Knowledge**
Joan Lucariello and Anthony Rifkin **189**
Object Groupings 190
The Organization of Event Categories 196
General Conclusions 203

10. **The Application of Scripts in the Organization of Language Intervention Contexts**
Catherine M. Constable **205**
The Nature of Language Disorders 206
Recent Trends in Language Intervention 211
The Development of a Scripted Approach to Language Intervention 212
Current Clinical Procedures in the Application of Scripts 219
A Scriptal Approach to the Facilitation of Event Relations and Complex Structures in Preschool Dialogue 225
Conclusion 229
Acknowledgment 230

11. **Event Knowledge and Cognitive Development**
Katherine Nelson **231**
Summary of Findings 231
Cognitive Development from an Event Knowledge Base 234
Further Developmental Implications 246

References **249**
Author Index
Subject Index