Review of Child Language.

1. Your child says pa, pa, ma, ma, po, po, pupu, ti, te, titi, tete. What is the state of his phonology?

2. How do we know when it is true language emerging and not babbling? (34)

3. What is the difference between a phoneme and a word? (43) What is ‘Bucephalus is a horse’ supposed to mean?

4. How are musical pitch and pitch in language similar and how different? (38)

5. Why do children replace k by t, but this is never a sound change in language?

6. What are the steps in the development of the consonant system?

7. What are the steps in the development of the vocalic system?

8. The French child said [lolo] for lait ‘milk’ and l’eau ‘water.’. He said bé ‘bleating sound’ for both beau ‘beautiful’ and bon ‘good’. What is the state of his vocalic development? (49)

9. Talk about the vocalic triangle u, i, a. What are the distinctions here? (50)

10. How are the palatal consonants different from the dentals? (52, 53)

11. Talk about the little girl trying to say German Guten Tag Herr. ‘Good Day Mr. ...’ ‘Guken Gag He Goka’, ‘Duten Ta He Dotta’. (54) There are many languages without fricatives, none without stops. How does the child first pronounce f, s, x, sh, zh?

12. Analyze the little French speaker with these vocalisms:

gateau, ‘cake’ kato
cuisine, ‘cooking’ kuteen
cassé, ‘broken’ katé
partir, ‘depart’ pati
monsieur ‘gentleman’ pótó
merci ‘thank you’ peti
du sucre ‘some sugar’ kotük
 caché ‘hidden’ katé
bougie ‘candle’ budi
beaucoup ‘much’ kopu
bouquet ‘bouquet’ kupé

13. When in the sequence do rounded vowels emerge? (56)

14. Nasal consonants are very early, nasal vowels very late (why?) (71) Two liquids are very late. Rare complex phonemes like Czech ř are very very late. Glottalized consonants are very
late. What do you think Jakobson means by ’complex’?

15. Why are interdental fricatives so late? (61).

16. Why do they call the Czech aphasic change of šž č to s z c ’infantile’?

17. What is the most ’simple’ and maximal contrast in early child language?

18. Page 74 table, very difficult. The horizontal line is the basic process. In vowels, it is u (dark, or low pitch) to i (light, or high pitch). The vowels develop this distinction in high vowels first. And yet, paradoxically, the accessory process, chromaticity, can develop independently, in the linear vowel system. The basic process is tied to the accessory one. Paste the two tables together, so you get V = spectral colors ~ C = hueless gray series. Perceiving the differences between them is more important than the differences within them. The consonants split along the base line (p ~ t) and the vowels along the accessory line (a ~ i). It works!!

The dark labial is the consonantal optimum. When the dentals emerge, we get light/high pitch, sharpness (palatalized dental stops). Labials have a bigger resonator and narrowing of the pharynx; width of the pharynx is greater for the dentals, also a divided resonator.

Explain these words from a Russian child:

dom ’house’ d’om (palatalized)
naša ’our’ n’at’a (palatalized)
sam ’self’ s’am

19. What C’s have maximal achromatism and what C’s have minimal achromatism?

This is very important. List the C’s and categorize them.

The back C’s are like the wide V’s, less likely to split. In acoustical decomposition, when p and t are filtered out to null, k still has a dry knocking noise, like the glottal stop. So are velars often replaced by glottal stops. Czech rhyme komín má flek, komínice ne’.

20. Audition colorée. What are the sounds a, e, o, i, u ‘supposed’ to correspond to? What about k, p, t? The linear V system is like partial color blindness. The basic triangle of V’s is like green blindness (u - blue, e - yellow, a - red).

21. a -a means going to the potty. What word often emerges for this? u - u is the call of what bird?

22. The place of the dentals. The optimum C is the dark labial, the optimum V is the wide ‘red’ a. But as the system develops further, the maximally light stop takes over, the t, as does the minimally chromatic i. The unmarked high V (narrow), and the unmarked dental stop become the bridge developments.

Now: the lightness of the dentals is the elementary feature, and the darkness of the labials is the complex feature. Thus the first fricative is s, not f. So the palatal šiš becomes s’is’. The f often is identified with velar x.