The Acquisition of Gender
Crosslinguistic perspectives
Edited by Dalila Ayoun
University of Arizona

Gender as a morphosyntactic feature is arguably “an endlessly fascinating linguistic category” (Corbett 2014: 1). One may even say it is among “the most puzzling of the grammatical categories” (Corbett 1991: 1) that has raised probing questions from various theoretical and applied perspectives. Most languages display semantic and/or formal gender systems with various degrees of opacity and complexity, and even closely related languages present distinct differences, creating difficulties for second language learners. The first three chapters of this volume present critical reviews in three different areas—gender assignment in mixed noun phrases, subtle gender biases and the gender acquisition in child and adult heritage speakers of Spanish—while the next six chapters present new empirical evidence in the acquisition of gender by bilingual children, adult L2/L3 learners and heritage speakers of various languages such as Italian, German, Dutch or Mandarin-Italian.

HB 978 90 272 1009 8 EUR 99.00
E-BOOK 978 90 272 5839 7 EUR 99.00

Table of contents
About the contributors
Chapter 1. Introduction: Gender, geslagn, Geschlecht, yeōvoc, रूप, 性別
Dalila Ayoun

Part I. Review chapters
Chapter 2. Gender assignment in mixed noun phrases: State of the art
Kate Bellamy and M. Carmen Parafita Couto

Chapter 3. Empirical evidence for subtle gender biases in language
Yulia Esaulova and Lisa von Stockhausen

Chapter 4. The acquisition of grammatical gender in child and adult heritage speakers of Spanish: Beyond the source of differences
Alejandro Cuza and Liliana Sánchez

Part II. Child, adult and heritage speakers
Chapter 5. The second language acquisition of grammatical gender and number in Italian
Dalila Ayoun and Stefano Maranzana

Chapter 6. Grammatical gender and article use in beginning learners of German
Peter Ecke

Chapter 7. The non-default gender category in additional-language French
Amanda Edmonds, Aarnes Gudnøst and Thomas Metzger

Chapter 8. Investigating grammatical gender agreement in Spanish: A methodological exploration of eye-tracking
LeAnne Spina

Chapter 9. Cross-linguistic influence in bilingual grammars: Evidence from gender assignment in unilingual Dutch and mixed speech
Brechtje van Osch, Ivo H.G. Boers, Jane: Grijzenhout, M. Carmen Parafita Couto, Bo Sterken and Deniz Tat

Chapter 10. Prediction on the basis of gender and number in Mandarin-Italian bilingual children
Jasmijn E. Bosch, Mathilde Chailleux, Jia’en Yee, Maria Teresa Guasti and Fabrizio Arosio

Language index
Name index
Subject index