Investigations of Syntactic Bootstrapping
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Understanding how children learn verbs is extremely significant, in that it boosts our understanding of both language development and language itself. The syntax of a sentence enhances a child’s ability to learn more verbs by providing more information about those verbs. When children gain knowledge of verbs through the syntax of the sentence, it is called syntactic bootstrapping (Laudau & Gleitman, 1985). From previous research of syntactic bootstrapping, it can be said the children use the structure of sentence as a “guide” in order to learn verbs. This research aims to determine whether or not adults, rather than children, are able to learn the precise meaning of verbs used in a sentence based on the syntax of the sentence.