

# Class Distinction in Korean Word Acquisition -Noun bias? Verb bias?-

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## Word class distinction in word acquisition

- Korean shows less noun bias in early child acquisition: language-specific
  - Choi & Gopnik, 1995
- Korean children acquire nouns before verbs: language-universal
  - Chang & Pae, 2003

## Previous studies: Chang & Pae, 2003

Authors	Subjects number	Age (month)	Data collecting method
Au, Dapretto & Song(1994)	4	15-25	Checklist, spontaneous speech
Choi & Gopnik(1995)	9	14-22	Questionnaire, spontaneous speech
Kim, McGregor & Thomson(2000)	8	18-21	Diaries, MCDI Checklist
Lee & Chang(1999)	3	18-23	Spontaneous speech
Chang(1997)	5	18-22	MCDI-K
Chang(2004)	563	8-17	MCDI-K
Pae(1993)	90	12-23	MCDI-K, Spontaneous speech

## Issues in Word Acquisition Studies

- Data Collection Method
  - Early language questionnaire: provides prompts about the particular types of context in which children are likely to produce words
  - MacArthur Communication Development Inventories (MCDI-K): includes 245 common nouns and 107 verbs
- Definition of verbs
  - Count adjective verbs as verbs (Choi & Gopnik, 1995)
- Number of total words
  - Depend on the data collection method
- Subject: Korean residing in the States vs Korea

**Numbers of Nouns and Verbs  
: Chang & Pae, 2003**

	age(mth)	nouns	verbs	others	words	noun: verb ratio
1	15	17	4	0	21	4.3 : 1
	19	34	7	0	41	4.9 : 1
2	19	3	1	0	4	3.0 : 1
	20	4	1	0	5	4.0 : 1
	23	11	3	0	14	3.7 : 1
	24	14	8	0	22	1.8 : 1
	25	21	8	0	29	2.6 : 1
3	17	39	10	0	49	3.9 : 1
	22	87	53	0	140	1.6 : 1

	age(mth)	nouns	verbs	others	words	noun: verb ratio
4	22	68	16	0	84	4.3 : 1
	24	110	62	0	172	1.8 : 1
5	18	20	1	8	29	20.0 : 1
	19	114	2	32	148	57.0 : 1
	20	120	15	53	188	8.0 : 1
	21	383	22	237	642	17.4 : 1
	23	315	62	226	603	5.1 : 1
6	19	39	5	38	82	7.8 : 1
	21	66	7	108	181	9.4 : 1
	22	192	20	217	429	9.6 : 1
	23	144	21	382	382	6.9 : 1

	age(mth)	nouns	verbs	others	words	noun: verb ratio
7	18	44	5	11	60	8.8 : 1
	19	82	2	43	127	41.0 : 1
	21	153	6	18	177	25.5 : 1
	22	171	5	26	202	34.2 : 1
8	<b>18</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>56</b>	<b><u>1 : 1</u></b>
9	20	24	18	16	58	1.3 : 1
	21	36	24	20	80	1.5 : 1
10	<b>15</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>39</b>	<b><u>0.9 : 1</u></b>
	16	18	15	14	47	1.2 : 1
	17	29	17	16	62	1.7 : 1
	22	94	58	37	189	1.6 : 1

	age(mth)	nouns	verbs	others	words	noun: verb ratio
11	23	23	21	14	58	1.1 : 1
	<b>24</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>83</b>	<b><u>0.9 : 1</u></b>
	26	59	56	28	143	1.1 : 1
12	18	23	18	9	50	1.3 : 1
	19	34	18	13	65	1.9 : 1
	23	51	49	24	124	1.0 : 1
13	19	22	15	12	49	1.5 : 1
	<b>20</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>74</b>	<b><u>0.9 : 1</u></b>
	22	43	38	17	98	1.1 : 1
	24	74	73	32	178	1.0 : 1

	age(mth)	nouns	verbs	others	words	noun: verb ratio
14	17	12	17	11	40	<u>0.7 : 1</u>
	18	29	23	11	63	1.3 : 1
	23	51	50	20	121	1.0 : 1
15	21	18	4	12	34	4.5 : 1
16	22	33	9	15	57	3.7 : 1
	23	51	50	20	121	1.1 : 1
17	18	21	19	14	54	1.1 : 1
18	22	21	16	11	48	1.3 : 1
19	21	22	14	14	50	1.6 : 1
20	22	25	14	11	50	1.8 : 1

	age(mth)	nouns	verb s	others	words	noun: verb ratio
21	22	29	15	15	59	1.9 : 1
22	21	22	11	14	47	2.0 : 1
23	18	29	10	11	50	2.9 : 1
24	18	31	11	6	48	2.8 : 1
	average					2.9 : 1

- Support noun bias
  - Child 1-4 from Au et al.(1994)
  - Child 5-7 from Lee and Chang(1999)
- Against noun bias
  - Child 8-16 from Choi & Gopnik(1995)
  - Child 17-24 from Kim et al.(2000)

## Other Studies: Lee et al., 2004

- Data: record the natural conversation every month
- Subject: 7 boys and 7 girls (12 ~ 23 months)
- Result

age	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23
Noun	3	4	22	22	45	43	49	35	62	75	83	94
Verb	0	1	0	0	2	7	6	5	9	22	33	27
Adjective	1	1	1	1	0	4	1	3	3	6	15	12

감사합니다!

Kam-sa-ham-ni-da!



*Thank U*