



Technische  
Universität  
Braunschweig



# Meta-analysis and mispronunciations: An introduction to meta-analyses

Katie Von Holzen

Technical University of Braunschweig, Germany

# What can we gain from meta-analyses?



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## The Development of Infants' Responses to Mispronunciations: A Meta-Analysis

Katie Von Holzen<sup>1, 2, 3</sup> and Christina Bergmann<sup>4, 5</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Lehrstuhl Linguistik des Deutschen, Schwerpunkt Deutsch als Fremdsprache/Deutsch als Zweitsprache, Technische Universität Dortmund

<sup>2</sup> Department of Hearing and Speech Sciences, University of Maryland, College Park

<sup>3</sup> CNRS (Integrative Neuroscience and Cognition Center, UMR 8002), Université Paris Descartes, Sorbonne Paris Cité

<sup>4</sup> Max Planck Institute for Psycholinguistics, Nijmegen, the Netherlands

<sup>5</sup> Laboratoire de Sciences Cognitives et de Psycholinguistique, Département d'études cognitives, Ecole normale supérieure, EHESS, CNRS, PSL University



HOCHSCHULE OSNABRÜCK  
UNIVERSITY OF APPLIED SCIENCES



# What can we gain from meta-analyses?

- Experimental planning
  - Aggregated across studies, what is the true effect?
  - Statistical power and sample size
  - Publication bias
- Theoretical insights
  - Is this modulated by different variables?

# What is a meta-analysis?

“... the set of statistical tools for aggregating quantitative results across studies”  
Bergmann et al., 2018, *Child Development*

Phonology 32 (2015), 207–239. © Cambridge University Press 2015  
doi:10.1017/S0025541715000153

## Building phonological lexical representations\*

Suzanne V. H. van der Feest  
University of Texas at Austin  
Paula Fikkert  
Radboud University Nijmegen

This paper contributes to the ongoing debate on children's word representations. We investigate the role of articulation and voicing contrasts, ignored in previous studies, in children's early word production. We and 14-month-olds' perception of these features in mispronunciation-detection paradigms. Our results show that phonological changes yield different mispronunciation sizes. Children aged 1;6 did not show a graded sensitivity to vowel mispronunciations, even when the trial length was increased to allow them more time to form a response. Two-year-olds displayed a robust sensitivity to increases in vowel mispronunciation size, differentiating between small and large mispronunciations. While this suggests that early lexical representations contain information about the features contributing to vocalic identity, we present evidence that this graded sensitivity is better explained by the acoustic characteristics of the different mispronunciation types presented to children.

### PAPER

**Influences of vowel and tone vs. knowledge: a cross-linguistic study**  
Leher Singh<sup>1</sup>, Tam Jun Hui<sup>1</sup>, Calista Roberta Michnick Golinkoff<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Department of Psychology, National University of Singapore, 5  
<sup>2</sup> School of Education, University of Illinois, USA

### Abstract

Do young word learners need more knowledge to learn phonological patterns, or is it more about the acoustic characteristics of the patterns themselves? We investigate this question by examining the role of articulation and voicing contrasts in children's early word production. We and 14-month-olds' perception of these features in mispronunciation-detection paradigms. Our results show that phonological changes yield different mispronunciation sizes. Children aged 1;6 did not show a graded sensitivity to vowel mispronunciations, even when the trial length was increased to allow them more time to form a response. Two-year-olds displayed a robust sensitivity to increases in vowel mispronunciation size, differentiating between small and large mispronunciations. While this suggests that early lexical representations contain information about the features contributing to vocalic identity, we present evidence that this graded sensitivity is better explained by the acoustic characteristics of the different mispronunciation types presented to children.

Phonology 32 (2015), 207–239. © Cambridge University Press 2015  
doi:10.1017/S0025541715000153

**Does size matter? Subsegmental cues to vowel mispronunciation detection\***

NIVEDITA MANI  
University of Göttingen

AND

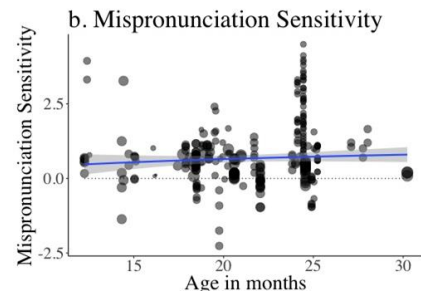
KIM PLUNKETT  
University of Oxford

(Received 17 November 2016 – Revised 18 September 2017 – Accepted 18 April 2018 –  
First published online 1 November 2018)

### ABSTRACT

Children look longer at a familiar object when presented with either correct pronunciations or small mispronunciations of consonants in the object's label, but not following larger mispronunciations. The current article examines whether children display a similar graded sensitivity to different degrees of mispronunciations of the vowels in familiar words, by testing children's sensitivity to *i*-feature, *a*-feature and *y*-feature mispronunciations of the vowels of familiar labels. Children aged 1;6 did not show a graded sensitivity to vowel mispronunciations, even when the trial length was increased to allow them more time to form a response. Two-year-olds displayed a robust sensitivity to increases in vowel mispronunciation size, differentiating between small and large mispronunciations. While this suggests that early lexical representations contain information about the features contributing to vocalic identity, we present evidence that this graded sensitivity is better explained by the acoustic characteristics of the different mispronunciation types presented to children.

Study	Age	Task	Results	Effect Size	Significance	Notes
1	1;6	Visual	0.45	0.000000	0.000000	
2	1;6	Visual	0.45	0.000000	0.000000	
3	1;6	Visual	0.45	0.000000	0.000000	
4	1;6	Visual	0.45	0.000000	0.000000	
5	1;6	Visual	0.45	0.000000	0.000000	
6	1;6	Visual	0.45	0.000000	0.000000	
7	1;6	Visual	0.45	0.000000	0.000000	
8	1;6	Visual	0.45	0.000000	0.000000	
9	1;6	Visual	0.45	0.000000	0.000000	
10	1;6	Visual	0.45	0.000000	0.000000	
11	1;6	Visual	0.45	0.000000	0.000000	
12	1;6	Visual	0.45	0.000000	0.000000	
13	1;6	Visual	0.45	0.000000	0.000000	
14	1;6	Visual	0.45	0.000000	0.000000	
15	1;6	Visual	0.45	0.000000	0.000000	
16	1;6	Visual	0.45	0.000000	0.000000	
17	1;6	Visual	0.45	0.000000	0.000000	
18	1;6	Visual	0.45	0.000000	0.000000	
19	1;6	Visual	0.45	0.000000	0.000000	
20	1;6	Visual	0.45	0.000000	0.000000	
21	1;6	Visual	0.45	0.000000	0.000000	
22	1;6	Visual	0.45	0.000000	0.000000	
23	1;6	Visual	0.45	0.000000	0.000000	
24	1;6	Visual	0.45	0.000000	0.000000	
25	1;6	Visual	0.45	0.000000	0.000000	
26	1;6	Visual	0.45	0.000000	0.000000	
27	1;6	Visual	0.45	0.000000	0.000000	
28	1;6	Visual	0.45	0.000000	0.000000	
29	1;6	Visual	0.45	0.000000	0.000000	
30	1;6	Visual	0.45	0.000000	0.000000	



# What can we gain from meta-analyses?

- Experimental planning
  - Aggregated across studies, what is the effect size?
  - Statistical power and sample size
    - How many participants do I need to test in order to be able to detect this effect?

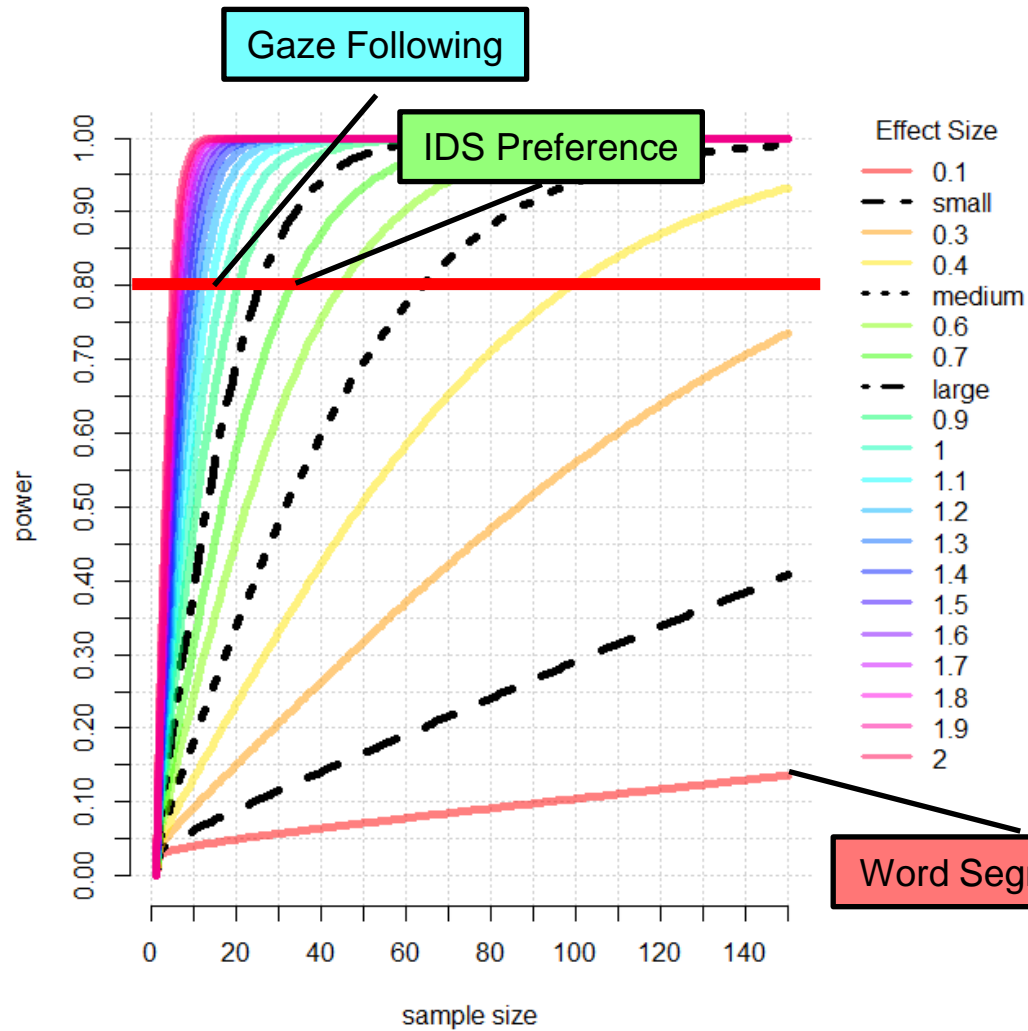


Table 1. Descriptions of the meta-analyses. Age is reported in months, sample size is based on the median in a given meta-analysis, effect size is reported as meta-analytic weighted median Cohen's *d*, and average power is computed based on meta-analytic effect size estimate Cohen's *d* and median sample size.

Meta-Analysis	Age	Sample Size	N Effect Sizes	N Papers	Effect Size (SE)	Power
Gaze following	14 (3-24)	23 (12-63)	32	11	1.08 (0.16)	0.95
IDS preference	4 (0-9)	20 (10-60)	48	16	0.73 (0.13)	0.61
Word segmentation	8 (6-25)	20 (4-64)	284	68	0.16 (0.03)	0.08

# What can we gain from meta-analyses?

- Experimental planning
  - Aggregated across studies, what is the effect size?
  - Statistical power and sample size



Milk  
/mɪlk/



Milk  
/mɛlk/



Mulk  
/mʌlk/

Bilk  
/bɪlk/



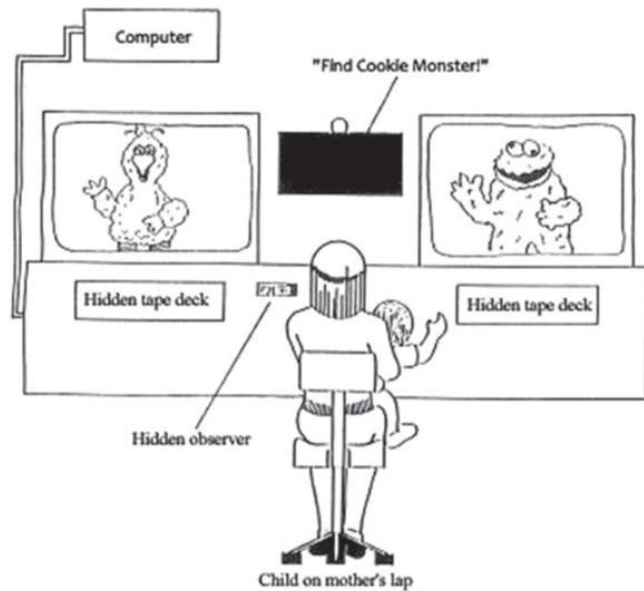
**Mispronunciation sensitivity:** Sensitivity to sound changes in familiar words during word recognition



Mulk  
/mʌlk/

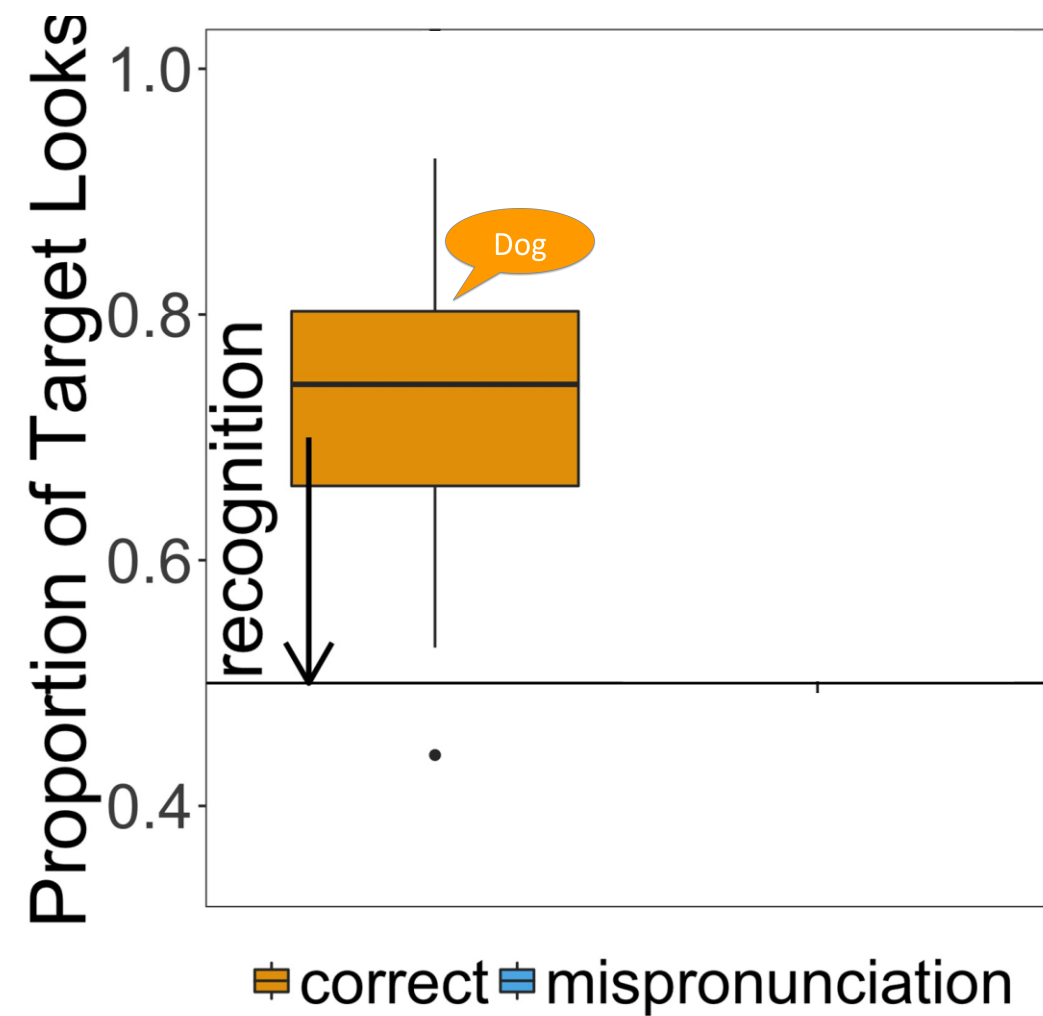
Bilk  
/bɪlk/





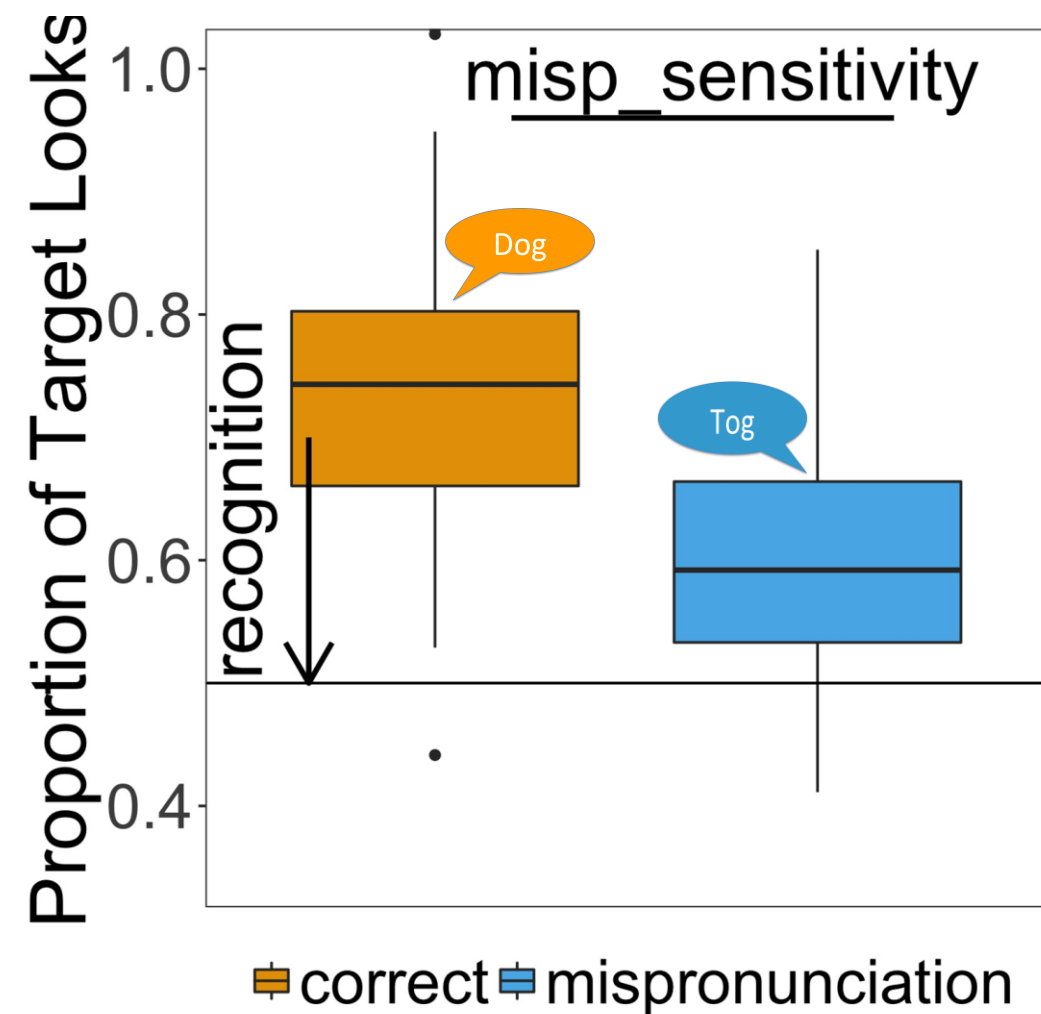


Dog





Tog



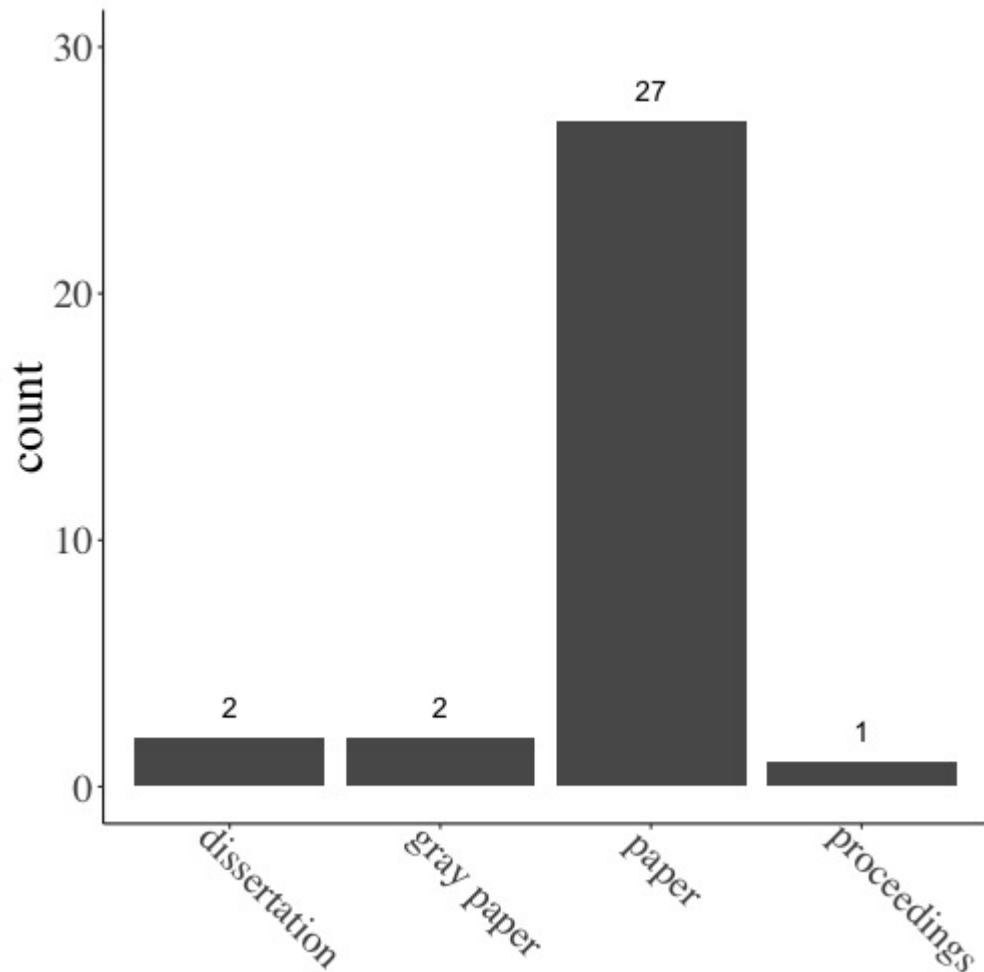
- “sensitivity to a small, but potentially meaning-altering change in the acoustic word form”
- 18-23-month-olds have phonologically well specified representations for familiar words

# What can we gain from meta-analyses?

- Experimental planning
  - Aggregated across studies, what is the true effect?
  - Statistical power and sample size

# Data Sample

- Screened over 400 papers
  - Original data
  - Infants younger than 31 months
  - Familiar word recognition
  - Measured eye movements
- Final sample: 32 items
  - 249 experimental conditions
  - 2252 infants





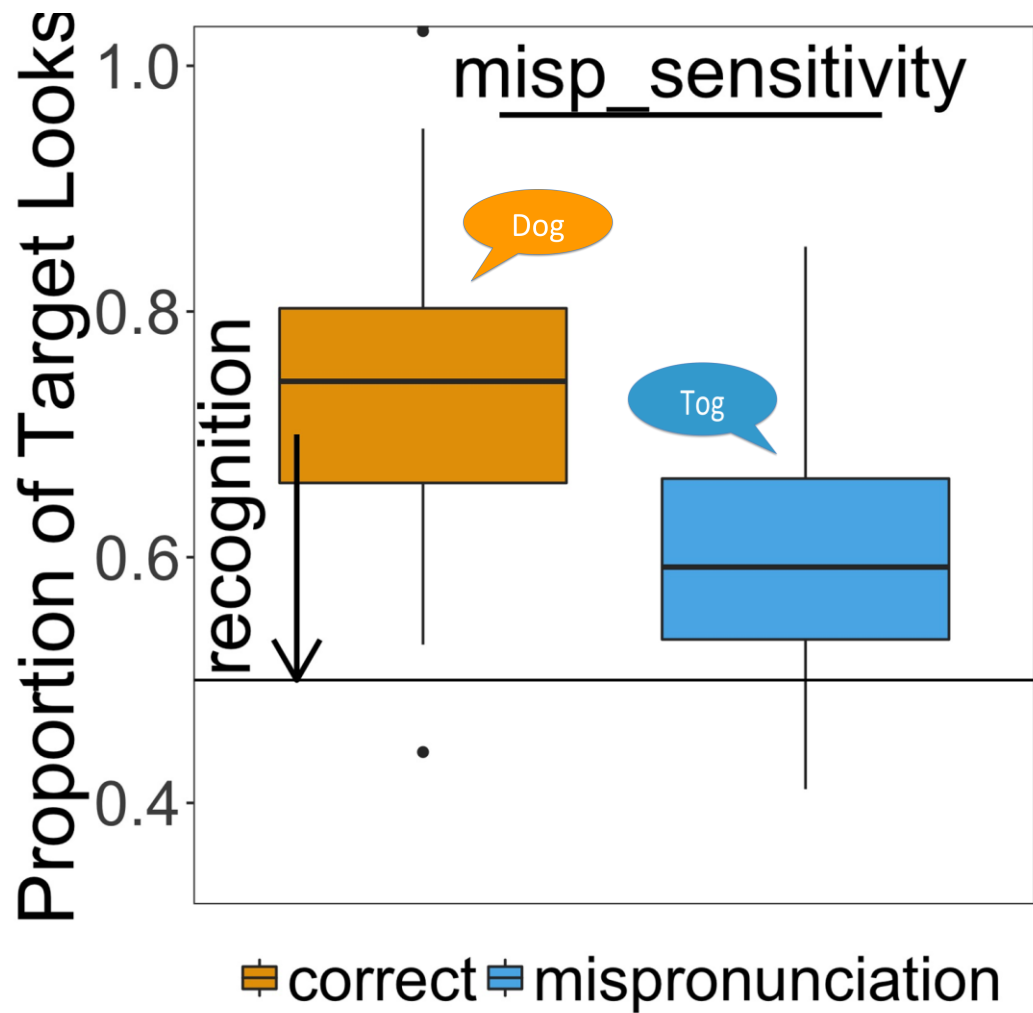
**Table 1**  
*Summary of All Papers*

Paper	Format	Age	Vocabulary	Familiarity	Target overlap	Size	Position	Type	<i>N</i> effect sizes
Altwater-Mackensen (2010)	Dissertation	22, 25	None	Fam, Unfam	O, Unfam	1	O, O/M	C	13
Altwater-Mackensen et al. (2014)	Paper	18, 25	None	Fam	O	1	O	C	16
Bailey & Plunkett (2002)	Paper	18, 24	Comp	Fam	None	1, 2	O	C	12
Bergelson & Swingley (2018)	Paper	7, 9, 12, 6	None	Fam	None	Unspec	O/M	V	9
Bernier & White (2017)	Proceedings	21	None	Unfam	Unfam	1, 2, 3	O	C	4
Delle Luche et al. (2015)	Paper	20, 19	None	Fam	O	1	O	C/V	4
Durrant et al. (2015)	Paper	19, 20	None	Fam	O	1	O	C/V	4
Højen et al. (2016)	Gray paper	19, 20	Comp/Prod	Fam	C, O	2–3	O/M, C/M	C/V, V, C	6
Höhle et al. (2006)	Paper	18	None	Fam	None	1	O	C	4
Mani & Plunkett (2007)	Paper	15, 18, 24, 14, 20	Comp/Prod	Fam	O	1–2, 1	O	V, C/V, C	14
Mani & Plunkett (2010)	Paper	12	Comp	Fam	O		M, O	V, C	8
Mani & Plunkett (2011)	Paper	23, 17	None	Unfam	Unfam	1–3, 1, 2, 3	M	V	15
Mani et al. (2008)	Paper	18	Comp/Prod	Fam	O	1	M	V	4
Ramon-Casas & Bosch (2010)	Paper	24, 25	None	Fam	None	Unspec	M	V	4
Ramon-Casas et al. (2009)	Paper	21, 20	Prod	Fam	None	Unspec	M	V	10
Ren et al. (2019)	Paper	19	None	Unfam	None	1	O, C	C	8
Skoruppa et al. (2013)	Paper	23	None	Unfam	O/M	1	C	C	4
Swingley & Aslin (2000)	Paper	20	Comp	Fam	None	1	O	C/V	2
Swingley & Aslin (2002)	Paper	15	Comp/Prod	Fam	None	1, 2	O/M	C/V	4
Swingley (2003)	Paper	19	Comp/Prod	Fam	O	1	O, M	C	6
Swingley (2009)	Paper	17	Comp/Prod	Fam	None	1	O, C	C	4
Swingley (2016)	Paper	27, 28	Prod	Unfam	Unfam	1	O/M	C/V, C, V	9
Tamasi (2016)	Dissertation	30	None	Unfam	Unfam	1, 2, 3	O	C	4
Tao & Qinmei (2013)	Paper	12	None	Fam	None	Unspec	Unspec	T	4
Tao et al. (2012)	Paper	16	Comp	Fam	None	Unspec	Unspec	T	6
van der Feest & Fikkert, (2015)	Paper	24, 20	None	Fam	O	1	O	C	16
van der Feest & Johnson (2016)	Paper	24	None	Fam	O	1	O	C	20
Wewalaarachchi et al. (2017)	Paper	24	None	Unfam	Unfam	1	O/M/C	C/V/T, V, C, T	8
White & Aslin (2011)	Paper	18	None	Unfam	Unfam	1	M	V	4
White & Morgan (2008)	Paper	18, 19	None	Unfam	Unfam	1, 2, 3	O	C	12
Zesiger & Jöhr (2011)	Paper	14	None	Fam	None	1	O, M	C, V	7
Zesiger et al. (2012)	Paper	12, 19	Comp/Prod	Fam	None	1, 2	O	C	6

*Note.* Age = mean age (in months). Vocabulary: Comp = comprehension; Prod = production. Distractor familiarity: Fam = familiar; Unfam = unfamiliar. Target overlap: O = onset; M = medial; C = coda. Mispronunciation size: Number of features changed; commas indicate separate comparison, dashes indicate an aggregated range. Mispronunciation Position: O = onset; M = medial; C = coda. Mispronunciation type: C = consonant; V = vowel; T = tone. A slash separator indicates no distinction was made in the stimuli, and unspec. indicates that the value was unspecified in the paper.

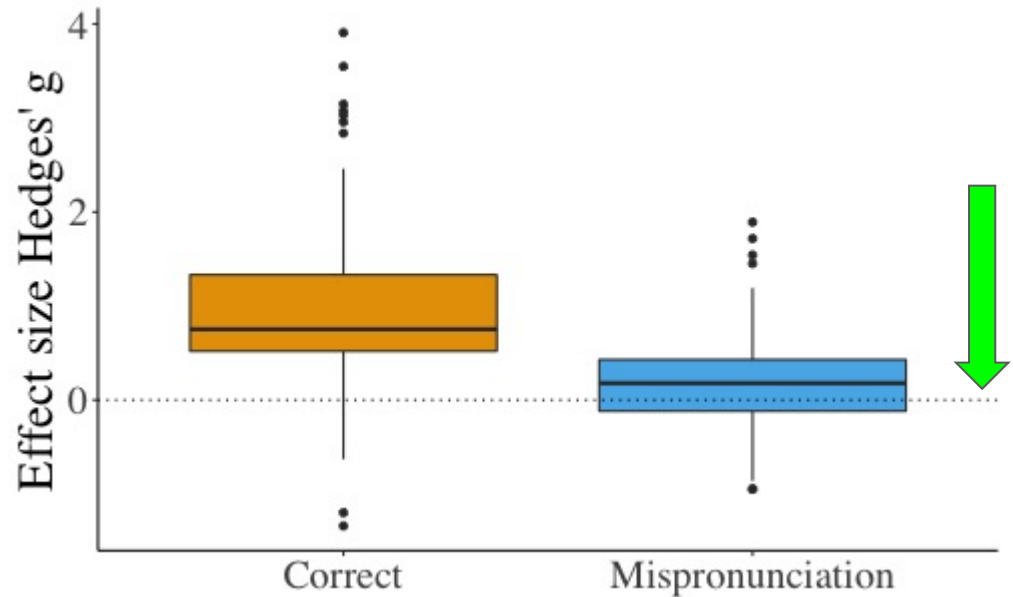
# Effect Size calculation

- Hedges'  $g$ 
  - Hedges, 1981; Morris, 2000
  - Effect size that corrects for small sample sizes
  - Based on raw data (mean & sd) or test statistics reported in paper



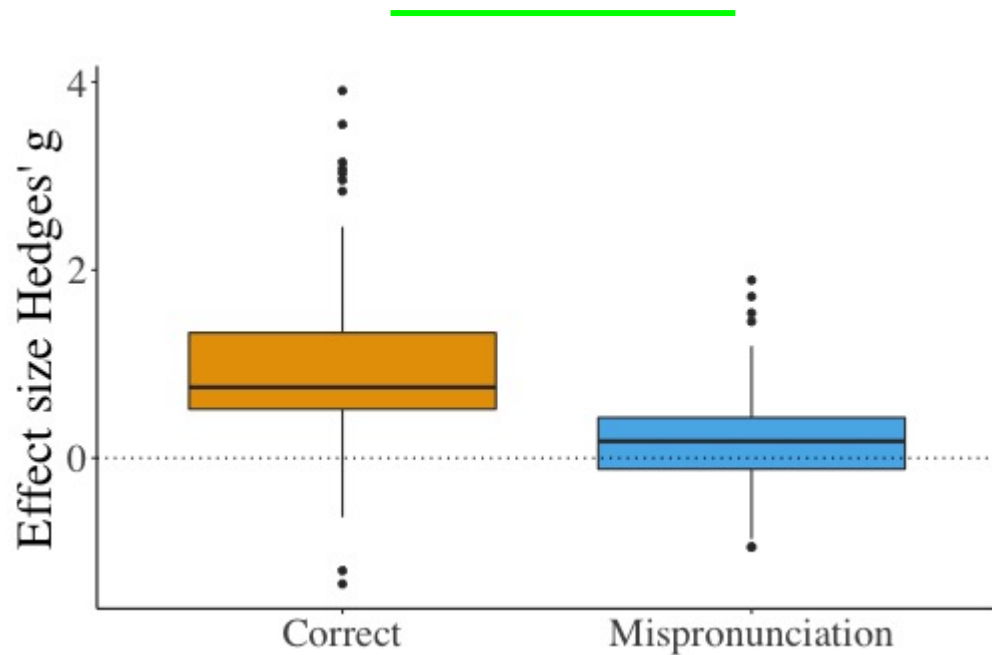
# Object Identification / Recognition

- Effect sizes above chance
- Correct Pronunciation
  - $g = 0.91$
  - 95% CI [0.63, 1.14]
  - (SE = 0.12,  $p < .0001$ )
- Mispronunciation
  - $g = 0.25$
  - 95% CI [0.13, 0.37]
  - SE = 0.06,  $p < .0001$



# Mispronunciation Sensitivity

- Effect sizes different between correct and mispronunciation
  - $\beta = 0.61$
  - 95% CI [0.48, 0.72]
  - SE = 0.06,  $p < .0001$



# What can we gain from meta-analyses?

- Experimental planning
  - Aggregated across studies, what is the true effect?
    - Mispronunciation effect:  $\beta = 0.61$
  - Statistical power and sample size
    - Power: 54%
    - Median sample size: 24 infants
    - To achieve 80% power (recommended), need to test 44 infants

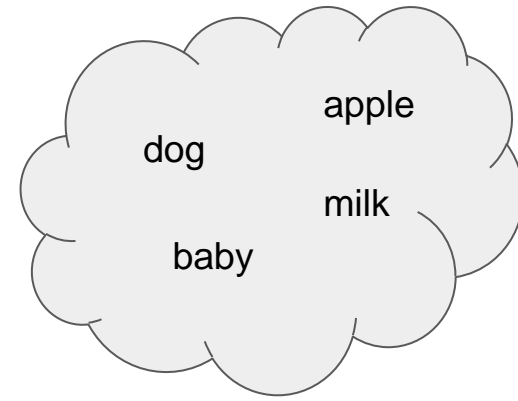
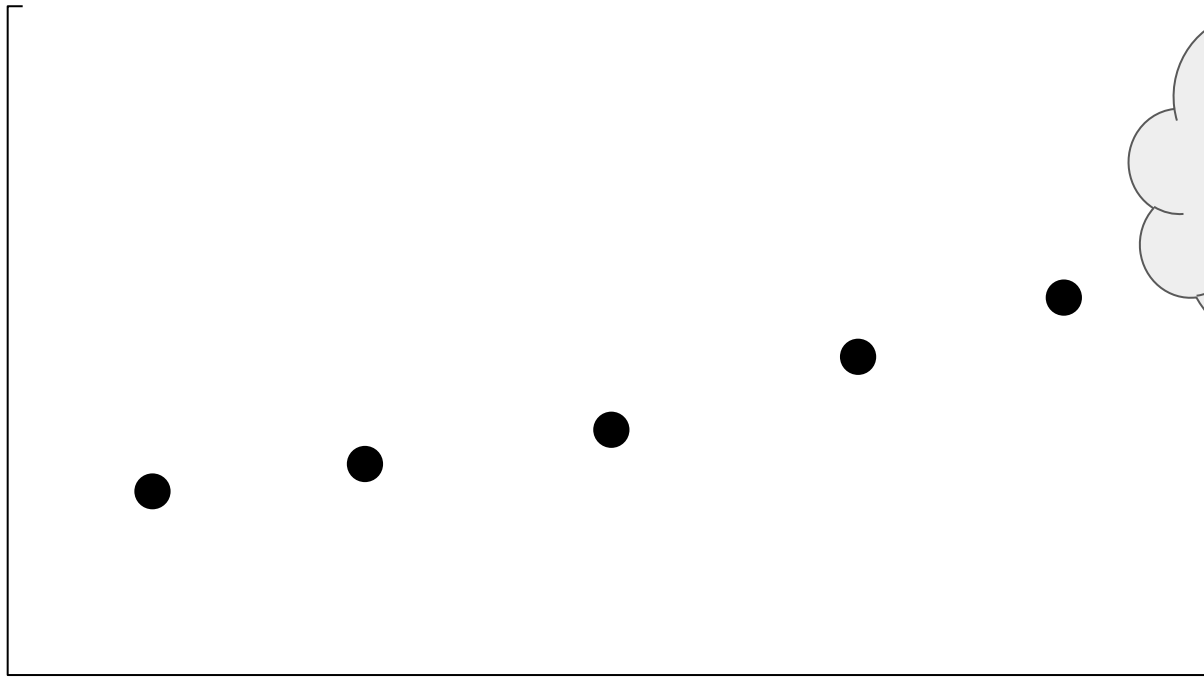
# What can we gain from meta-analyses?

- Experimental planning
  - Aggregated across studies, what is the true effect?
  - Statistical power and sample size
- Theoretical insights
  - Is this modulated by different variables?





Mispronunciation sensitivity



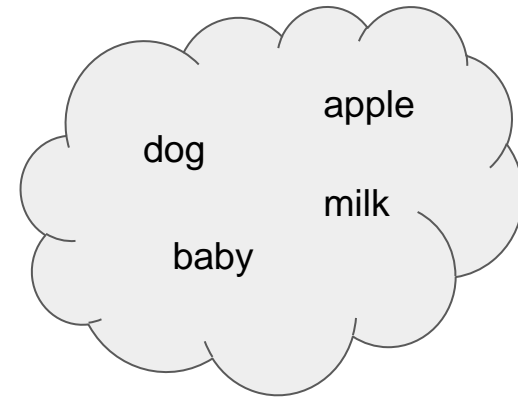
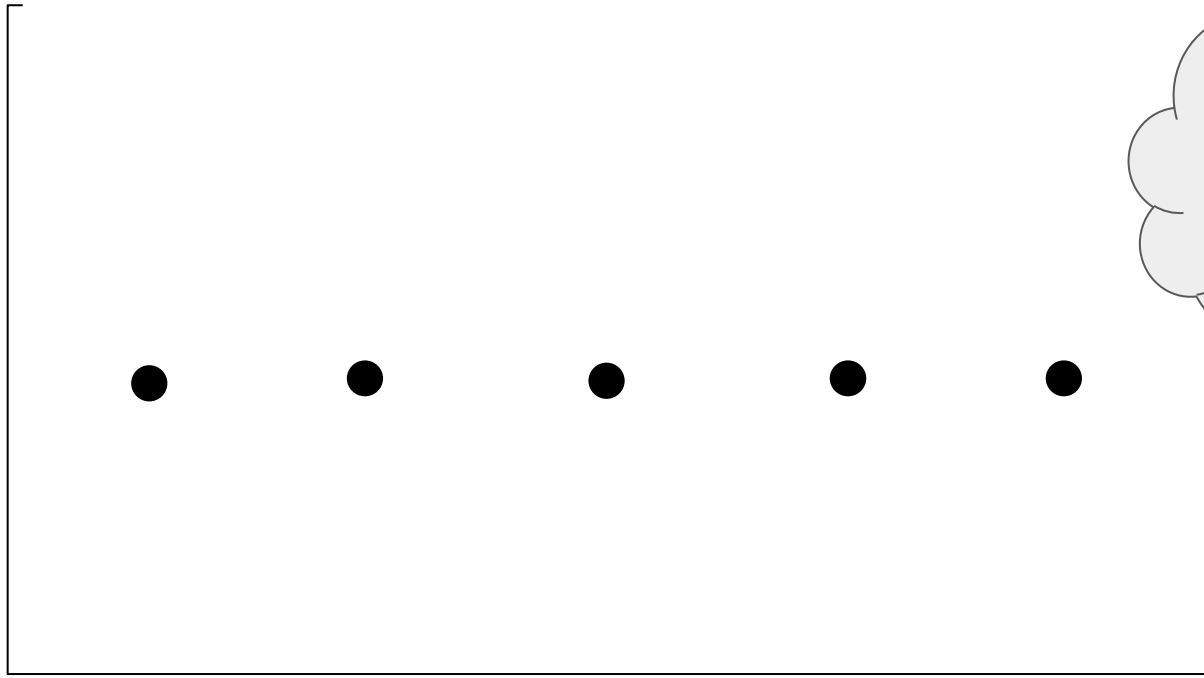
Time



### **Theory 1:** Mispronunciation sensitivity increases over time

- From holistic to more detailed representations
- Altwater-Mackensen & Mani, 2013; Mani & Plunkett, 2007; van der Feest & Fikkert, 2015

Mispronunciation sensitivity



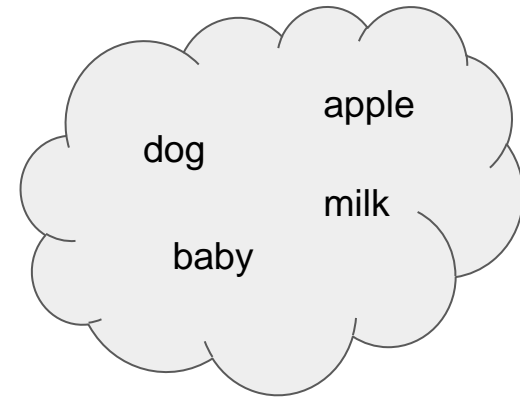
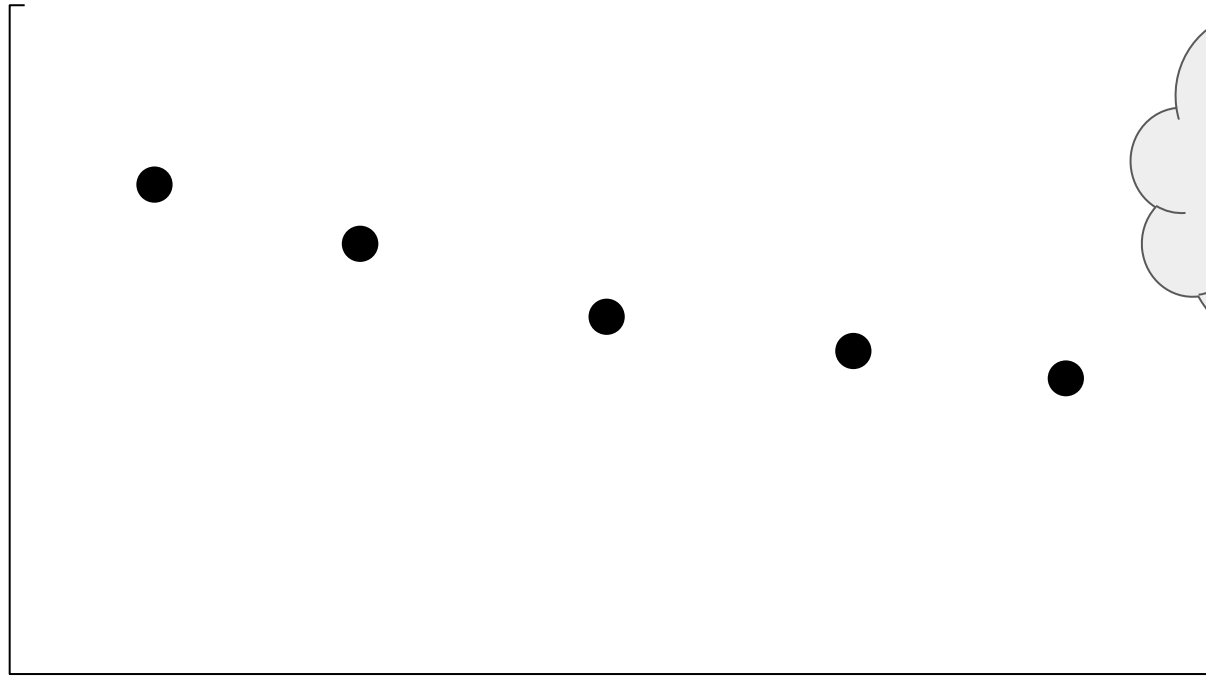
Time



**Theory 2:** Mispronunciation sensitivity stays the same over time

- Early specificity
- Swingley & Aslin, 2000; Bailey & Plunkett, 2002; Zesiger et al., 2012

Mispronunciation sensitivity



Time

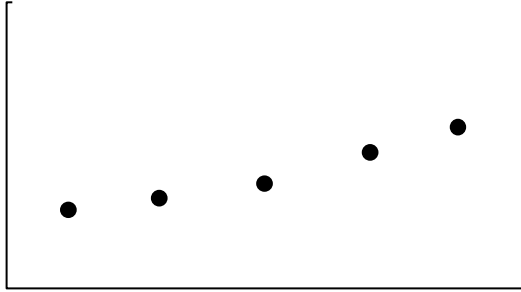


**Theory 3:** Mispronunciation sensitivity decreases over time

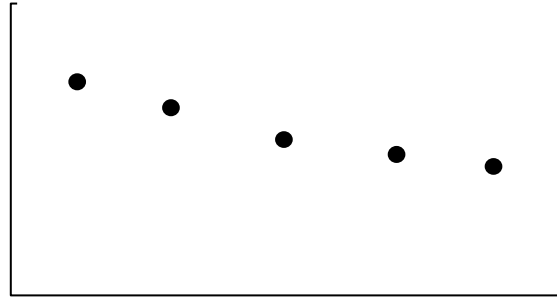
- Mani & Plunkett, 2011

Mispronunciation Sensitivity

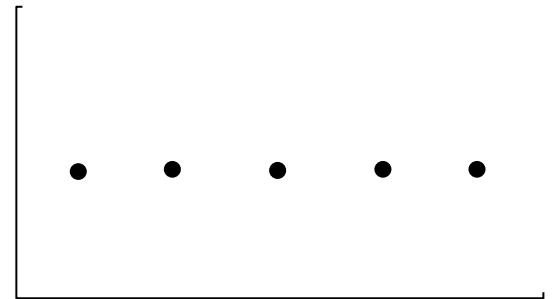
Increase



Decrease



Stays same



Age

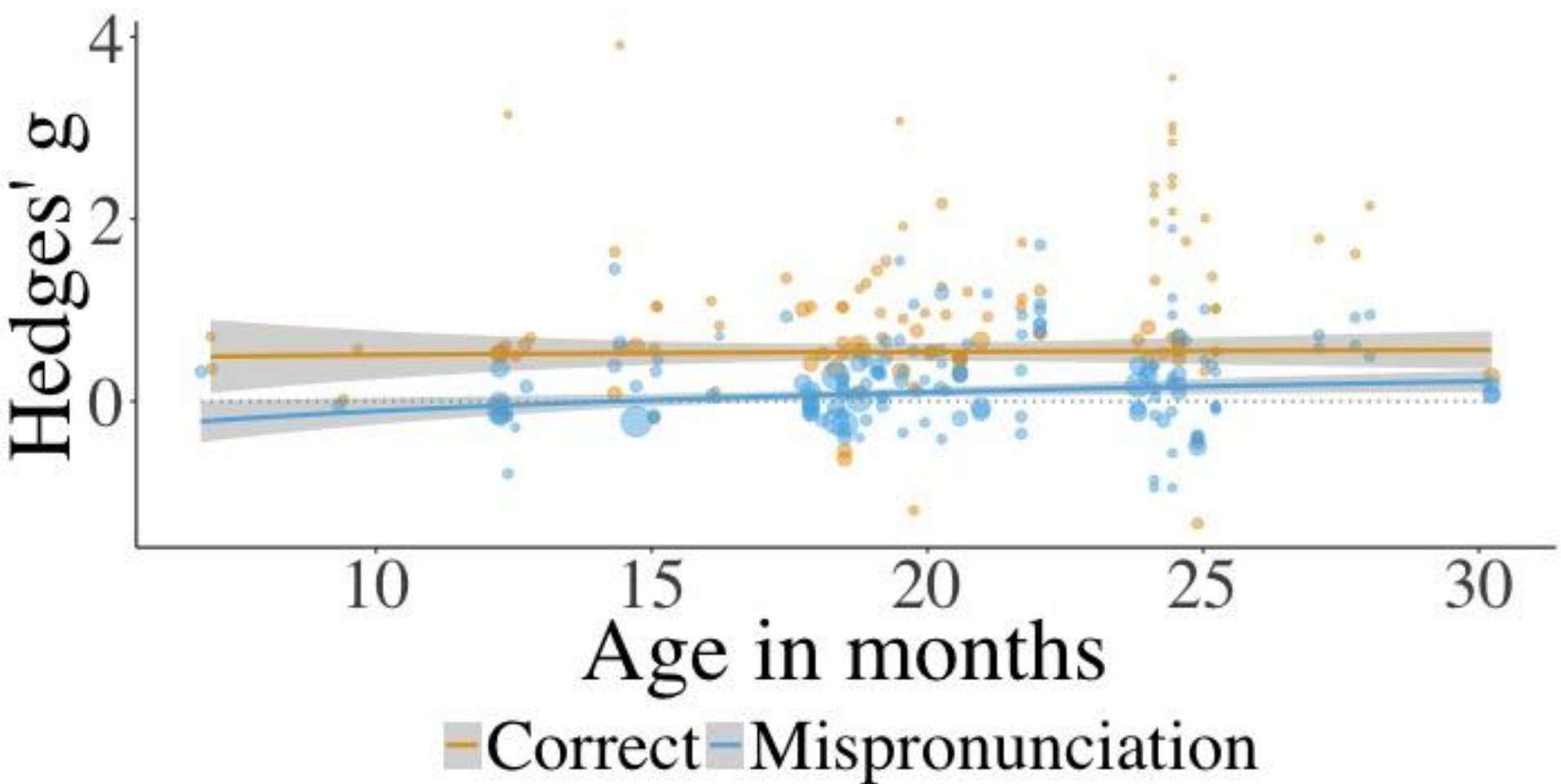
Altwater-Mackensen & Mani,  
2013; Mani & Plunkett, 2007;  
van der Feest & Fikkert,  
2015

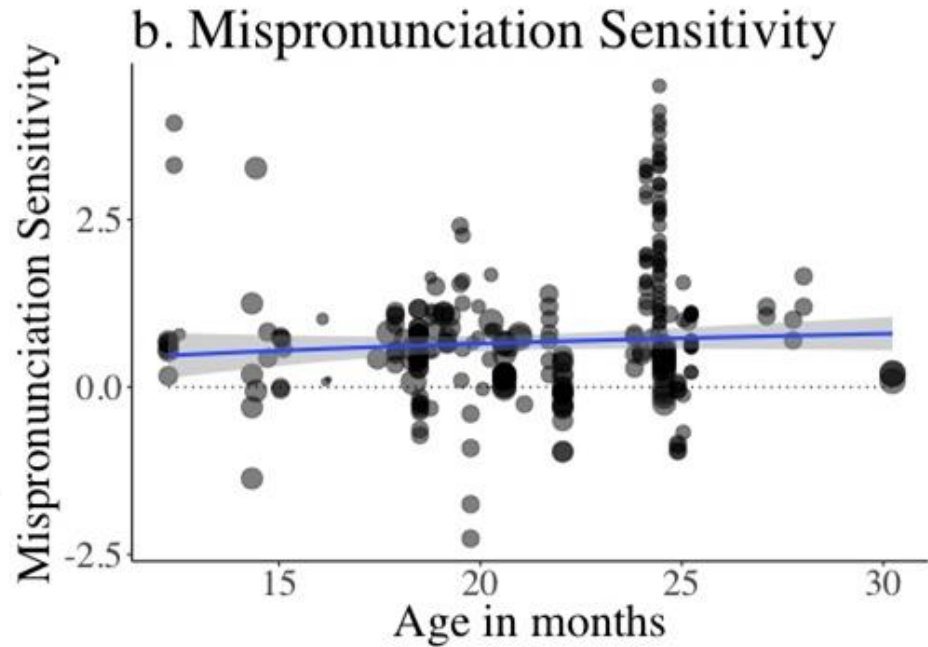
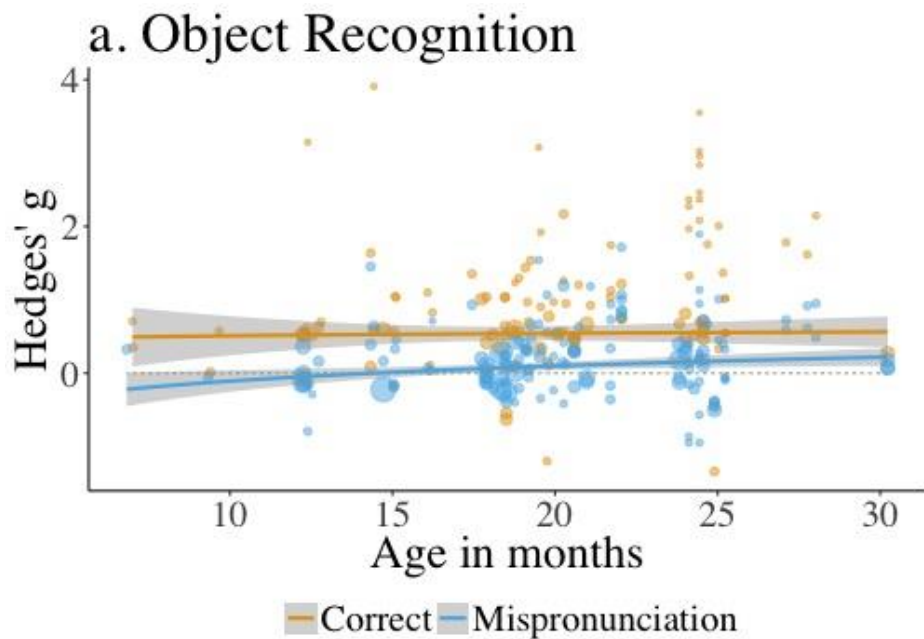
Mani & Plunkett, 2011

Swingley & Aslin, 2000; Bailey &  
Plunkett, 2002; Zesiger et al.,  
2012

# What can we gain from meta-analyses?

- Experimental planning
  - Aggregated across studies, what is the true effect?
  - Statistical power and sample size
- Theoretical insights
  - Is this modulated by different variables?
    - Age/vocabulary





Early specificity: Mispronunciation sensitivity stays the same with age



Early specificity: Mispronunciation sensitivity stays the same with age



# What can we gain from meta-analyses?

- Experimental planning
  - Aggregated across studies, what is the effect size?
    - Medium sized effect
  - Statistical power and sample size
    - Most studies are probably underpowered
    - To achieve 80% power (recommended), need to test 44 infants
- Theoretical insights
  - Is this modulated by different variables?
    - Age/vocabulary
      - No: support for the early specificity hypothesis

# What can we gain from meta-analyses?

- Theoretical insights
  - Is this modulated by different variables?
    - Vocabulary size
    - Mispronunciation size, distractor characteristics, language background, etc.
- Publication bias
  - Are significant results overrepresented in the literature?
- Unforeseen insights
  - Exploratory analyses that come to light during data entry
  - The choices we make for data analysis may influence the conclusions we draw in the field

# Thank you!



Dr. Christina  
Bergmann



Student  
Assistant:  
Emelyne



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