First Language Acquisition: Morphology

Morphology

Three strategies:

1. The Whole Object Assumption
   A new word refers to a whole object.

2. The Type Assumption
   A new word refers to a type of thing, not just to a particular thing.

3. The Basic Level Assumption
   A new word refers to types of objects that are alike in basic ways.

Overextensions: 419-420

dogs is often overextended to include horses, cows, and other four-legged animals
ball is sometimes used for any round object, including a balloon, an Easter egg,
a small stone, and so on
as many as one-third of children’s words may be overextended at the 50 word stage of vocabulary

Underextensions: 420-421

kitty, for example, might refer to the family pet, but not to other cats
dog, for example, might refer to collies, spaniels, and other larger dogs, but not to chi-huahuas

Morphological overextensions:
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Stages: (423)

1. case-by-case
2. overuse of general pattern
3. mastery of exceptions to the general pattern

children
man
went
ran
deer
himself
brought