

Interaction of Age and Instruction in Children and Adolescents' L2 Acquisition of Vocabulary and Grammar

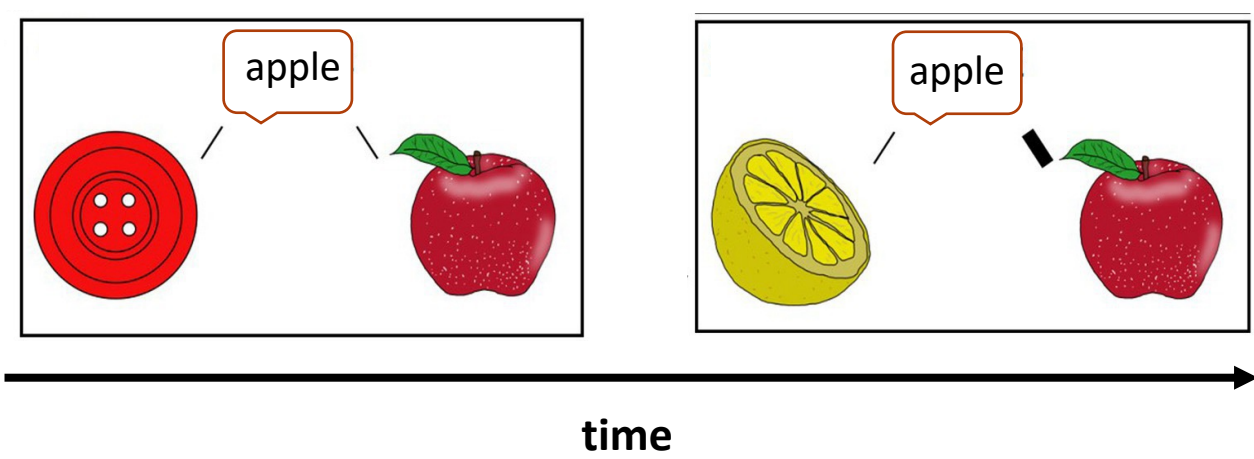
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INTRODUCTION

➤ Cross-situational statistical learning (CSL) contributes to vocabulary and grammar acquisition (Rebuschat et al, 2021).



➤ **Aim:** effect of **age** and **instruction** in L2 vocabulary and grammar learning via CSL:


- using artificial language;
- focusing on the nature of learning process (DeKeyser, 2013).

RESEARCH QUESTIONS

1. Is CSL age-invariant that remains stable throughout development, or does it improve with age?
2. To what extent does **explicit instruction** affect children's learning of L2 vocabulary and grammar in CSL, and how does this impact vary **across different age groups**?

MATERIALS & METHODS

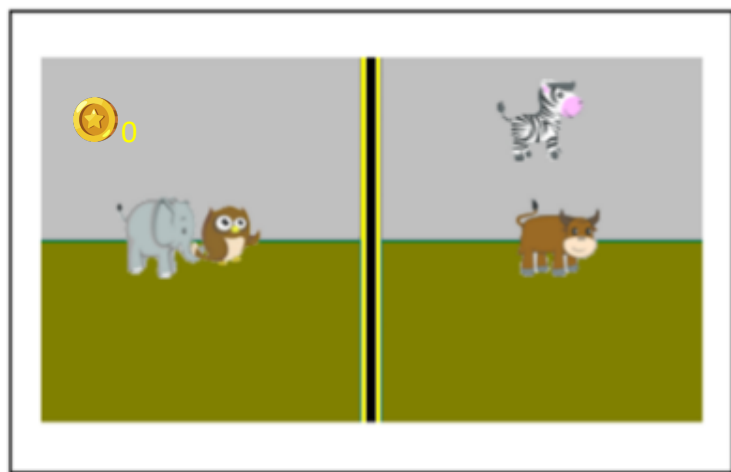
➤ Participants and Conditions  N = 150; Age 8-13

 Explicit instruction was given on grammar (i.e., the verb-final word order) of the artificial language

	8-9	10-11	12-13
Implicit	N=25	N=26	N=25
Instruction	N=25	N=25	N=24

➤ Materials (CSL)

 **Observe** trial example

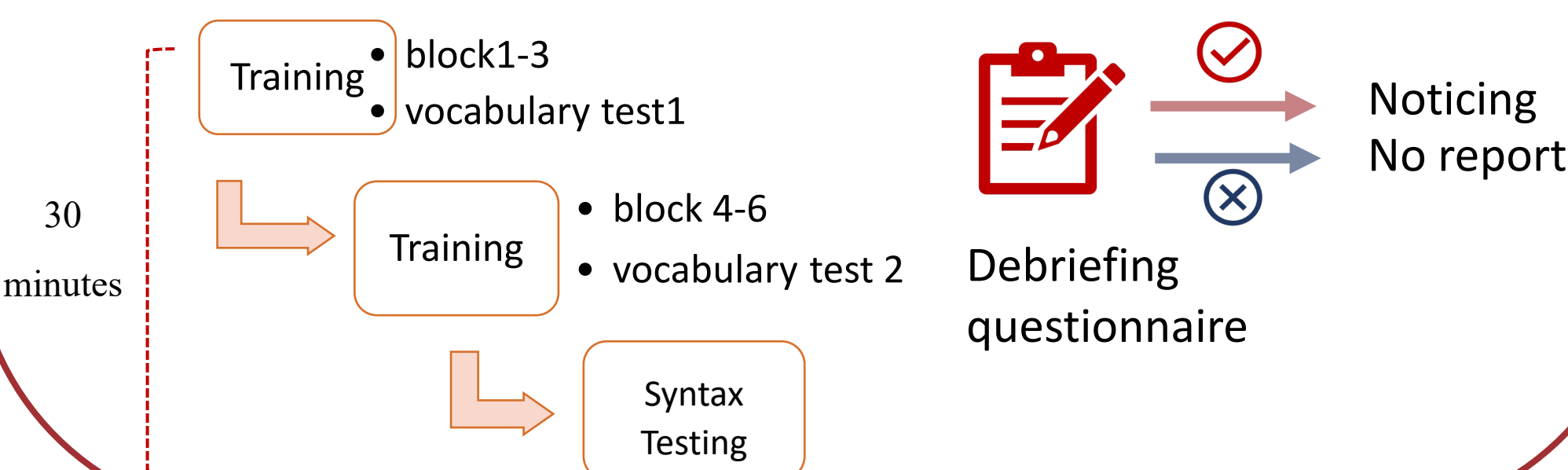


 **Hear** artificial sentence example

cheelow tha bimdah noo dingep.
Animal₁ SUBJECT Alien₂ OBJECT pushes
'Animal₁ pushes animal₂'.

CROSS-SITUATIONAL LEARNING TASK

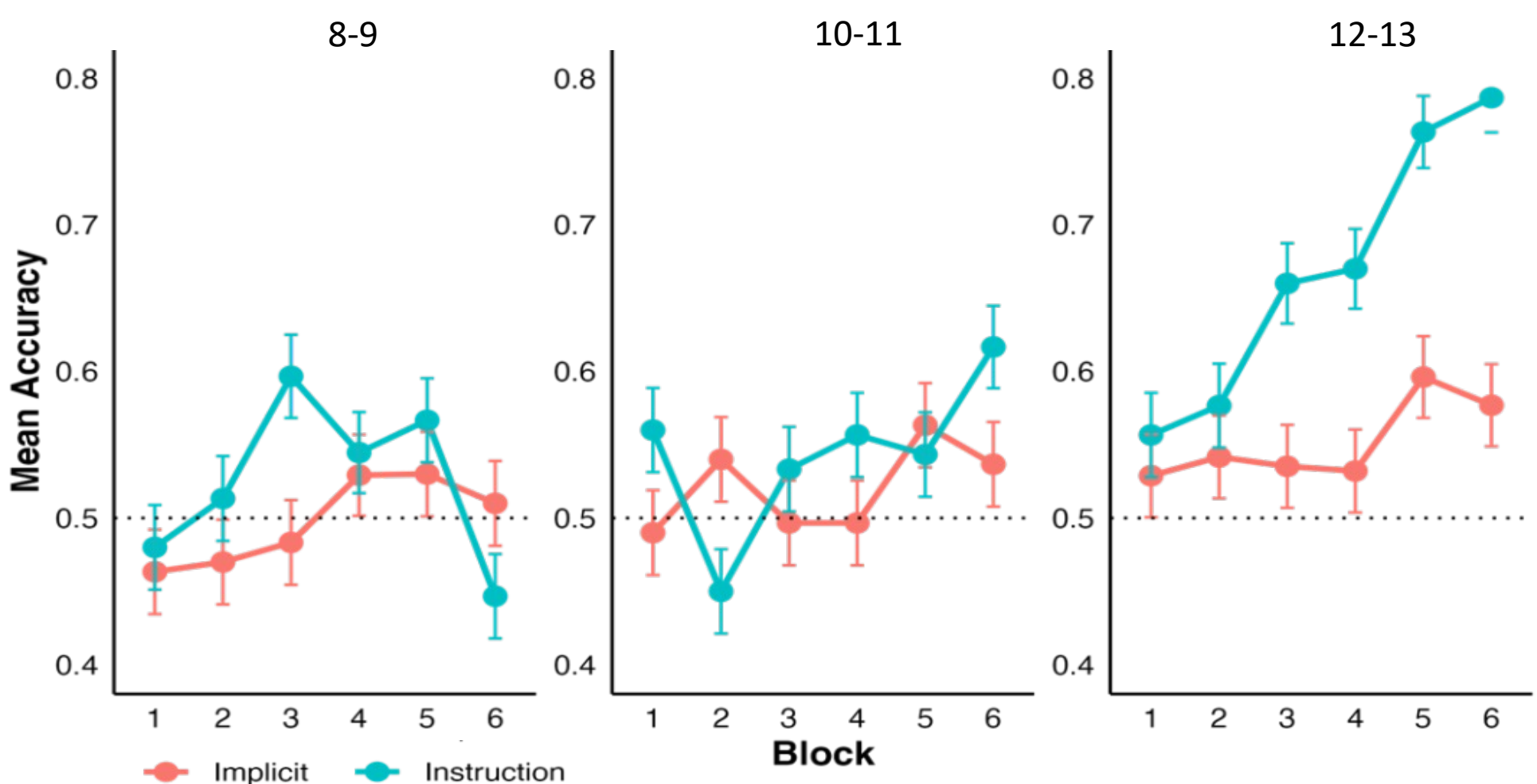
DEBRIEFING SESSION



RESULTS

➤ **Training trials**

- ✓ Significant learning:
- implicit group: 12-13 children only
- explicit instruction group: **all three age groups**.



➤ **Vocabulary testing trials**

✓ Learning effect was found in:

	Implicit	Instruction
Nouns		10-11
Verbs	12-13	12-13
Markers	10-11	

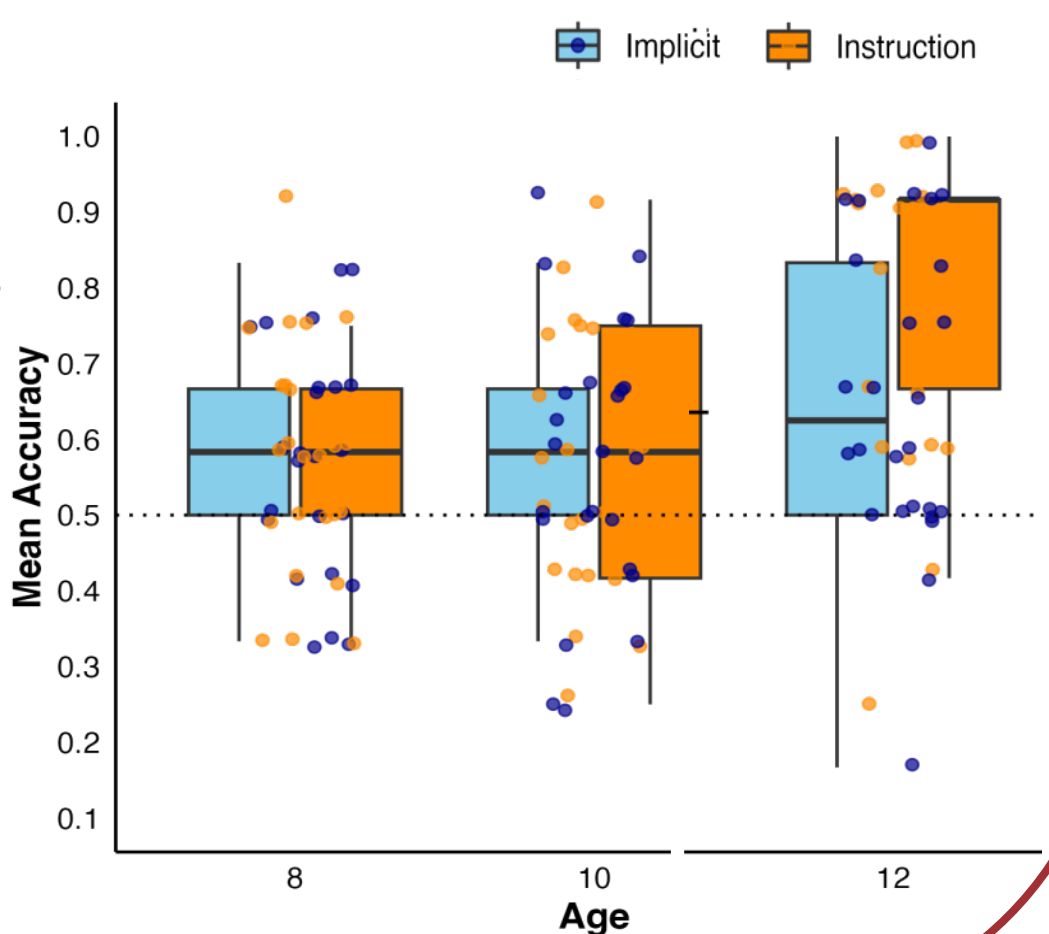
➤ **Syntax testing trials**

✓ **Who learned successfully?**

- 8-9 & 12-13 children;
- 10-11 marginal

✓ **Instruction helped?**

- 12-13 children only



DISCUSSION

- Cross-situational statistical learning improves with age.
- Instruction boosts learning process.
- Older children benefit more on verb and syntax learning.

REFERENCES

1. DeKeyser, R. M. (2013). Age Effects in Second Language Learning: Stepping Stones Toward Better Understanding. *Language Learning*, 63(s1), 52–67. <https://doi.org/10.1111/j.1467-9922.2012.00737.x>
2. Rebuschat, P., Monaghan, P., & Schoetensack, C. (2021). Learning vocabulary and grammar from cross-situational statistics. *Cognition*, 206, 104475.



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