Evidence for the noun-verb asymmetry has been mixed:

- Noun bias (higher proportion of nouns than verbs) in early production vocabularies found in English (Bates et al., 1994), Japanese (Ogura, 2001) and Korean (Au et al., 1994)

- BUT, verb bias (higher or equal proportion of nouns than verbs) reported in Cantonese (Tardif, 2006), Mandarin (Tardif, 1996), and Korean (Choi, 2000; Choi & Gopnik, 1995)

There are other factors/mechanisms involved in facilitating the acquisition of verbs:

- Structural features of the language: verb specificity and position saliency of verbs when the language permits dropping of post-verbal noun phrases (Tardif, 2006)

- Pragmatic/cultural factors such as interaction style of caregivers and their child (Lee, 2006; Yuan et al., 2003)

This study is the first to provide a direct comparison of the nature of early vocabulary composition of bilingual children between 14 and 19 months of age

- Previous studies have mainly focused on comparing groups of monolingual children across languages
  - They cannot adequately control for individual differences or different activities of caregivers

- If the noun bias is universal across languages, the noun-verb asymmetry would be exhibited in the early vocabulary in these two typologically different languages (English: noun-friendly vs. Cantonese: verb-friendly)

CONCLUSIONS

1. Percentages of verb tokens and types produced by the two bilingual children are consistent with the percentages produced by the monolingual learners

2. These findings suggest that noun bias may not be a universal phenomenon across languages

3. Limitation: Small sample size for both bilingual and monolingual spontaneous production data