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## Overview

**All papers can be downloaded from my personal website: [www.benambridge.com](http://www.benambridge.com)**

My research focuses on how children learn the grammar of their language; in particular on how they avoid errors with syntax (e.g., “\*He giggled me” rather than “He made my giggle”) and morphology (e.g., “\*I sitted down” rather than “I sat down”). Recently, I’ve been branching out from English and studying these phenomena in Hebrew, Hindi, Japanese, K’iche’ Mayan, Indonesian, Balinese, Mandarin, Finnish, Polish, Estonian, German, Spanish and Lithuanian. I’m also interested in Open Science (I set up the journal *Language Development Research*) and pop-psychology: I’ve written two books – *Psy-Q* and *Are You Smarter Than a Chimpanzee* - and teach “Psychology in the Real World” on the Psychology BSc programme.

## Research outputs

**Learners Restrict Their Linguistic Generalizations Using Preemption but Not Entrenchment: Evidence From Artificial-Language-Learning Studies With Adults and Children**

Samara, A., Wonnacott, E., Saxena, G., Maitreyee, R., Fazekas, J. & Ambridge, B., 2024, (Accepted/In press) In: *Psychological Review*. in press

**Children learn ergative case marking in Hindi using statistical preemption and clause-level semantics (intentionality): evidence from acceptability judgment and elicited production studies with children and adults**

Maitreyee, R., Saxena, G., Narasimhan, B., Misra Sharma, D., Mishra, P., Bhaya Nair, R., Samanta, S. & Ambridge, B., 1 Nov 2023, In: *Open research Europe*. 3, p. 49 49.

**Uninversion error in English-speaking children’s wh-questions: Blame it on the bigrams?**

Ambridge, B., McCauley, S. M., Bannard, C., Davis, M., Cameron-Faulkner, T., Gummery, A. & Theakston, A., 3 May 2023, In: *Language Development Research*.

**Syntactic Representations Contain Semantic Information: Evidence From Balinese Passives**

Darmasetiyawan, I. M. S. & Ambridge, B., 11 Mar 2022, In: *Collabra: Psychology*. 8, 1

**Is Passive Priming Really Impervious to Verb Semantics? A High-Powered Replication of Messenger Et al. (2012)**

Darmasetiyawan, I. M. S., Messenger, K. & Ambridge, B., 10 Jan 2022, In: *Collabra: Psychology*. 8, 1, p. 1-18 31055.

**Multiword units lead to errors of commission in children’s spontaneous production: “What corpus data can tell us?”**

McCauley, S. M., Bannard, C., Theakston, A., Davis, M., Cameron-Faulkner, T. & Ambridge, B., Nov 2021, In: *Developmental science*. 24, 6, p. 1-9 9 p., e13125 .

**Testable theories of core first language acquisition**

Ambridge, B. & Wagner, L., 28 Sept 2021, In: *Journal of Child Language*. 48, 5, p. 859-861 3 p.

**Balancing information-structure and semantic constraints on construction choice: Building a computational model of passive and passive-like constructions in Mandarin Chinese**

Liu, L. & Ambridge, B., 1 Sept 2021, In: *Cognitive Linguistics*. 32, 3, p. 349-388 40 p.

**Verb argument structure overgeneralisations for the English intransitive and transitive constructions: grammaticality judgments and production priming**

Bidgood, A., Pine, J., Rowland, C., Sala, G., Freudenthal, D. & Ambridge, B., 1 Sept 2021, In: *Language and Cognition*. 13, 3, p. 397-437

**A computational simulation of children’s language acquisition**

Ambridge, B., 1 Aug 2021, *OpenAccess Series in Informatics*. Schloss Dagstuhl- Leibniz-Zentrum für Informatik GmbH, Dagstuhl Publishing, (OpenAccess Series in Informatics; vol. 93).

**Direct Versus Indirect Causation as a Semantic Linguistic Universal: Using a Computational Model of English, Hebrew, Hindi, Japanese, and K'iche' Mayan to Predict Grammaticality Judgments in Balinese**

Aryawibawa, I. N., Qomariana, Y., Artawa, K. & Ambridge, B., 20 Apr 2021, In: *Cognitive Science*. 45, 4, e12974.

**Disentangling syntactic, semantic and pragmatic impairments in ASD: Elicited production of passives**

Ambridge, B., Bidgood, A. & Thomas, K., 2021, In: *J Child Lang*. 48, 1, p. 184-201 18 p.

**Abstractions made of exemplars or 'You're all right, and I've changed my mind': Response to commentators**

Ambridge, B., 1 Oct 2020, In: *First Language*. 40, 5-6, p. 640-659 20 p.

**Against stored abstractions: A radical exemplar model of language acquisition**

Ambridge, B., 1 Oct 2020, In: *First Language*. 40, 5-6, p. 509-559 51 p.

**Syntactic Representations Are Both Abstract and Semantically Constrained: Evidence From Children's and Adults' Comprehension and Production/Priming of the English Passive**

Bidgood, A., Pine, J. M., Rowland, C. F. & Ambridge, B., Sept 2020, In: *Cognitive Science*. 44, 9, p. e12892

**Teaching the unlearnable: A training study of complex yes/no questions**

Ambridge, B., Rowland, C. F. & Gummery, A., 1 Jun 2020, In: *Language and Cognition*. 12, 2, p. 385-410 26 p.

**The retreat from transitive-causative overgeneralization errors: A review and diary study**

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**How the input shapes the acquisition of verb morphology: elicited production and computational modelling in two highly inflected languages**

Engelmann, F., Granlund, S., Kolak, J., Szreder, M., Ambridge, B., Pine, J. M., Theakston, A. & Lieven, E., 1 May 2019, In: *Cognitive Psychology*. 110, p. 30-69 40 p.

**Children's Acquisition of the English Past-Tense: Evidence for a Single-Route Account From Novel Verb Production Data**

Blything, R. P., Ambridge, B. & Lieven, E. V. M., May 2018, In: *Cognitive Science*. 42, S2, p. 621-639 19 p.

**Disentangling Effects of Input Frequency and Morphophonological Complexity on Children's Acquisition of Verb Inflection: An Elicited Production Study of Japanese**

Tatsumi, T., Ambridge, B. & Pine, J. M., 2018, In: *Cognitive Science*. 42 Suppl 2, p. 555-577 23 p.

**Is Syntax Semantically Constrained? Evidence From a Grammaticality Judgment Study of Indonesian**

Aryawibawa, I. N. & Ambridge, B., 2018, In: *Cognitive Science*. 42, 8, p. 3135-3148 14 p.

**Testing an input-based account of children's errors with inflectional morphology: an elicited production study of Japanese**

Tatsumi, T., Ambridge, B. & Pine, J. M., 2018, In: *J Child Lang*. 45, 5, p. 1144-1173 30 p.

**The roles of word-form frequency and phonological neighbourhood density in the acquisition of Lithuanian noun morphology**

Savičiūtė, E., Ambridge, B. & Pine, J. M., 2018, In: *J Child Lang*. 45, 3, p. 641-672 32 p.

**Horses for courses: When acceptability judgments are more suitable than structural priming (and vice versa)**

Ambridge, B., 2017, In: *Behavioral and Brain Sciences*. 40, p. e284

**Lexical distributional cues, but not situational cues, are readily used to learn abstract locative verb-structure associations**

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**A connectionist model of the retreat from verb argument structure overgeneralization**

Ambridge, B. & Blything, R. P., 2016, In: *J Child Lang.* 43, 6, p. 1245-1276 32 p.

**An Elicited-Production Study of Inflectional Verb Morphology in Child Finnish**

Räsänen, S. H., Ambridge, B. & Pine, J. M., 2016, In: *Cognitive Science.* 40, 7, p. 1704-1738 35 p.

**Is Passive Syntax Semantically Constrained? Evidence From Adult Grammaticality Judgment and Comprehension Studies**

Ambridge, B., Bidgood, A., Pine, J. M., Rowland, C. F. & Freudenthal, D., 2016, In: *Cognitive Science.* 40, 6, p. 1435-1459 25 p.

**Modelling the acquisition of Polish verb inflection**

Engelmann, F., Szreder, M., Kolak, J., Granlund, S., Ambridge, B., Pine, J. M., Theakston, A. & Lieven, E., 2016.

**Is grammar spared in autism spectrum disorder? Data from judgments of verb argument structure overgeneralization errors: Data from Judgments of Verb Argument Structure Overgeneralization Errors**

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**The ubiquity of frequency effects in first language acquisition.**

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**Children use statistics and semantics in the retreat from overgeneralization**

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**Infinitives or bare stems? Are English-speaking children defaulting to the highest-frequency form?**

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**Psy-Q: You know your IQ - now test your psychological intelligence**

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**The retreat from locative overgeneralisation errors: A novel verb grammaticality judgment study**

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**Experimental methods in studying child language acquisition**

Ambridge, B. & Rowland, C. F., 2013, In: *Wiley Interdiscip Rev Cogn Sci.* 4, 2, p. 149-168 20 p.

**How do children restrict their linguistic generalizations? An (un-)grammaticality judgment study**

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**The retreat from overgeneralization in child language acquisition: word learning, morphology, and verb argument structure**

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**Semantics versus statistics in the retreat from locative overgeneralization errors**

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**The development of abstract syntax: evidence from structural priming and the lexical boost**

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**Children's judgments of regular and irregular novel past-tense forms: new data on the English past-tense debate**

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**A semantics-based approach to the "no negative evidence" problem**

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**Is Structure Dependence an Innate Constraint? New Experimental Evidence From Children's Complex-Question Production**

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**The effect of verb semantic class and verb frequency (entrenchment) on children's and adults' graded judgements of argument-structure overgeneralization errors**

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**Comparing different accounts of inversion errors in children's non-subject wh-questions: 'What experimental data can tell us?'**

Ambridge, B., Rowland, C. F., Theakston, A. L. & Tomasello, M., Aug 2006, In: Journal of Child Language. 33, 3, p. 519-557 39 p.

**Testing the agreement/tense omission model using an elicited imitation paradigm**

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**Experimental investigations of the formation and restriction of abstract grammatical constructions in young children**

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**The structure of working memory from 4 to 15 years of age**

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