

# Early findings from Thai Early Word Learning and Communicative Development Survey (ThECS-2021)

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## BACKGROUND

- Like many versions of early word inventory/ checklist, ThECS-2021 drew upon well-established English language inventories [1][2][3] and previous Thai surveys [4][5] by *removing*, and *substituting* relevant items.
- To capture **general communicative development of Thai children (0-2 years)**, it also introduced a number of new sections, categories, and items.
- This is our starting point to develop a more engaging form fitting for cultural and linguistic contexts.
- Findings are beneficial for creating a shorter version of the early vocab checklist and related surveys.
- Some key findings from ThECS-2021 are presented here to show the survey potential and to receive feedback.

## METHODS

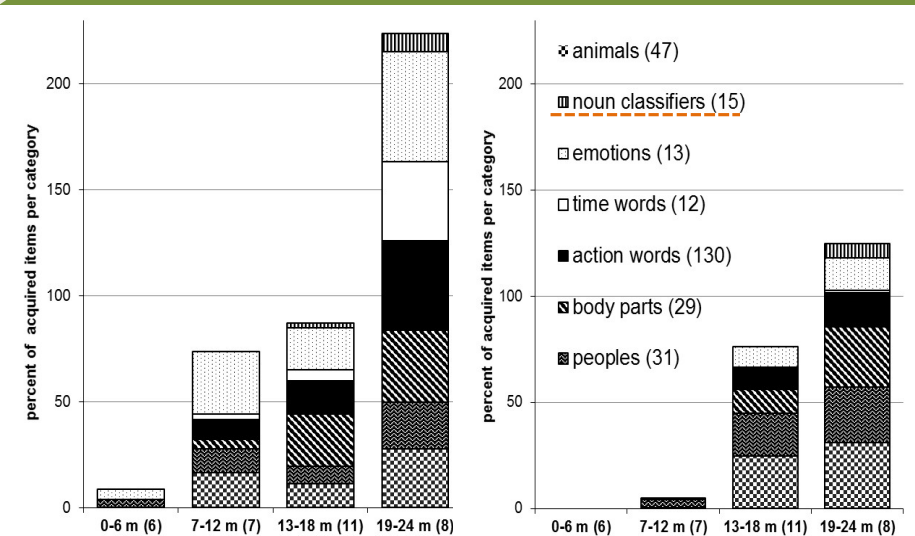
- The survey is relatively long; consisting of **3 main parts**:
  - **Part 1:** (S.1.1) survey description, (S.1.2) consent form, and (S.1.3) infant language and environment background (6 categories totaling 36 items).
  - **Part 2:** (S.2.1) receptive and expressive vocab checklist (26 categories totaling 689 items), (S.2.2) parent-to-infant frequent utterance (3 categories), (S.2.3) Social Desirability survey [6] (13 items).
  - **Part 3:** survey of infant activity (5 categories), communicative gesture (62 items), and facial expression (17 items).
- ThECS-2021 was launched in an online format (google form) primarily on a NokHook BabyLab Facebook page.
- We initially received 35 responses; up to **33 were analyzed**.

## SOME EARLY FINDINGS

- **Questions from infant language and environment background (S.1.3):** *weak-to-moderate positive associations* between *child age* and *variables* such as screen time, object permanence awareness, speech imitation, conversational initiation, comprehensibility of child speech (only), and comprehensibility of child speech plus gesture.
- **Receptive and expressive vocab checklist (S.2.1):** *positive correlations* between *child age* and *receptive vocab scores* [ $r(24)=.595, p=.001$ ] and between *child age* and *expressive vocab scores* [ $r(24)=.474, p=.014$ ].
- **Parent self-report (S.2.2):** action words, nouns, and question forms **dominated** parent-to-infant utterances regardless of child age.
- **Bottom Figure:** comparison of 7 vocab categories (249 words in S.2.1) **receptively** (left panel) vs. **expressively** (right panel) **acquired** in 4 age groups. *Parentheses provide number of children in age group and items in category.*

## FUTURE WORK

- The online survey is still in progress and we plan to analyze survey data from all parts by putting a special focus on the vocab checklist.



## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS & REFERENCES

- **JSPS Grant-in-Aid for Scientific Research S (16H06319, 20H05617) and MEXT (#4903-17H06382/17H06383) to Dr. Reiko Mazuka.**

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