Learning inflection: the roles of frequency, neighbourhood density and typology

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Children become sensitive to some inflectional categories from early on but can take a very long time to master the full system depending on the roles of frequency, neighborhood density and salience in the particular system and language they are learning. I will discuss the implications of this developmental trajectory for theories of language learning: In so far as I accept the distinction of what is within the language system from what is outside it, I will argue that this developmental trajectory involves learning first being driven by general cognitive processes which become encapsulated to language over time.