Child language processing

• Memory constraints
  – Subj vs obj gap asymmetry

a. The reporter [that t attacked the senator] ...
b. The reporter [that the senator attacked t] ...
Seidl, Hollich and Jusczyk (2003)

• Tested comprehension of subject, object and where questions in 13, 15 and 20 month olds using preferential looking
  – What hit the keys?
  – What did the keys hit?
  – Where are the keys?

• Show videos here
Seidl, Hollich and Jusczyk (2003)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Age (months)</th>
<th>Where Q</th>
<th>Subject Q</th>
<th>Object Q</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>20</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>x</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>x</td>
<td>x</td>
<td>x</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Questions about Seidl et al

• Why did the 15mo fail?
  – Linguistic immaturity (lack of grammatical knowledge)?
  – Processing difficulty (subj. vs. obj. asymmetry)?
  – Task demand?

• How would you test these questions?
For Tuesday

• Read and summarize Roeper & de Villiers
• Start making appointments to discuss your presentation / final paper
Presentation time!

- Brian presents Thornton & Crain