Take a Look!: Investigating the Relative Contributions of Children's Books and Child-Directed Speech

Joseph Denby

Computational Content Analysis

March 15, 2018



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Setup / Objective

- Caregiver speech and picture books are two prominent sources of linguistic input for children
- Research has historically neglected the latter
- Important to assess their relative (unique?) contributions

Montag et al. (2015), 2

What language-learning data might early picture books provide that everyday conversations do not?

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Corpora – LDP

- UChicago-based initiative to document parent-child interactions with a socioeconomically-diverse sample
- Ecological check-ins between ages 14 58 months at four month intervals
- Analysis draws from transcripts of caregiver speech

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Corpora – Picture Books

Montag, J. L., Jones, M. N., & Smith, L. B. (2015). The words children hear: Picture books and the statistics for language learning. Psychological Science, 26, 1489-1496.

Alexander and the Terrible, Horrible, No Good, Very Bad Day by Judith Viorst

Angelina Ice Skates by Katharine Holabird

Are You My Mother? by P. D. Eastman Arnie the Doughnut by Laurie Keller

Arthur Writes a Story by Marc Brown

A Bad Case of Stripes by David Shannon

Bark, George by Jules Feiffer

Bear Wants More by Karma Wilson

The Berenstain Bears and the Green-Eyed Monster by Stan Berenstain and Ian Berenstain

The Berenstain Bears Forget Their Manners by Stan Berenstain and Jan Berenstain

Blueberries for Sal by Robert McCloskey

Bread and Jam for Frances by Russell Hoban

Brown Bear, Brown Bear, What Do You See? by Bill Martin, Ir.

Bunny Party by Rosemary Wells

Caps for Sale by Esphyr Slobodkina

The Carrot Seed by Ruth Krauss The Cat in the Hat by Dr. Seuss

Charlie and the New Baby by Ree Drummond

Chicka Chicka 1-2-3 by Bill Martin, Ir., Michael Sampson, and Lois Ehlert

Chicka Chicka Boom Boom by Bill Martin, Ir., and John Archambault

Chrysanthemum by Kevin Henkes

How Do Dinosaurs Say Good Night? by Jane Yolen and

Mark Teague

How to Train a Train by Jason Carter Eaton

If You Give a Moose a Muffin by Laura Ioffe Numeroff

If You Give a Mouse a Cookie by Laura Joffe Numeroff I'm a Big Sister by Joanna Cole

The Keeping Quilt by Patricia Polacco

Knuffle Bunny by Mo Willems

Ladybug Girl at the Beach by David Soman and Jacky Davis

Lilly's Purple Plastic Purse by Kevin Henkes

Little Blue Truck Leads the Way by Alice Schertle

The Little Engine That Could by Watty Piper The Little House by Virginia Lee Burton Llama Llama Red Pajama by Anna Dewdney

Llama Llama Home With Mama by Anna Dewdney

The Lorax by Dr. Seuss

Love You Forever by Sheila McGraw

Madeline by Ludwig Bemelmans

Maisy Goes Camping by Lucy Cousins Maisy Goes to the Library by Lucy Cousins

Make Way for Ducklings by Robert McCloskey

Mike Mulligan and His Steam Shovel by Virginia Lee Burton Miss Rumphius by Barbara Cooney

The Napping House by Audrey Wood

No, David! by David Shannon

Oh, the Places You'll Go by Dr. Seuss

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Outline & Sampling

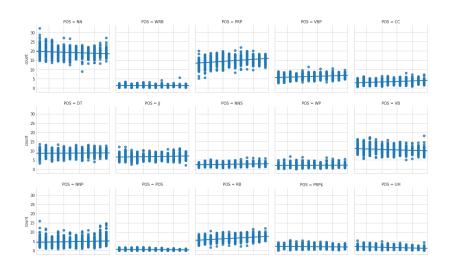
- Compare POS usage between the two corpora
 - Randomly sample 150-word contiguous windows from books and conversations
 - Count up POS usage
- Analyze and compare sentence complexity within and between corpora
 - Randomly sample 90-sentence contiguous windows from conversations (approximate mean book length)
 - Parse each sentence and compute tree depth

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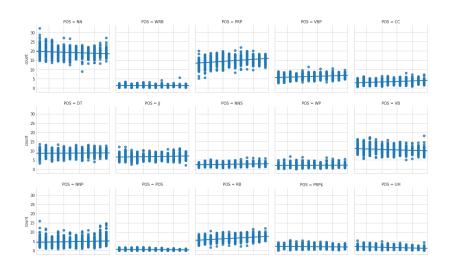
Outline & Sampling

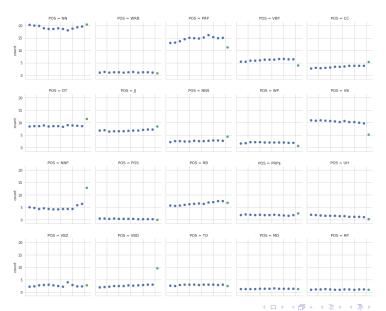
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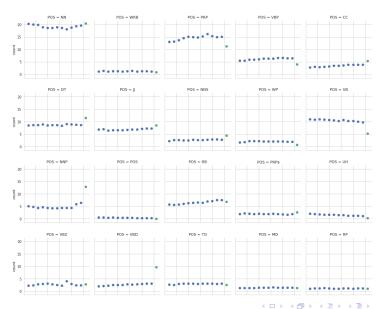
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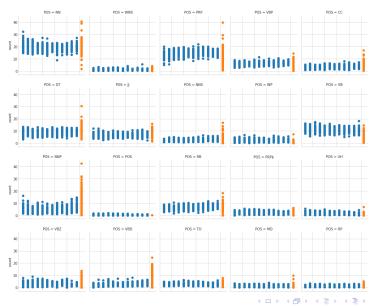


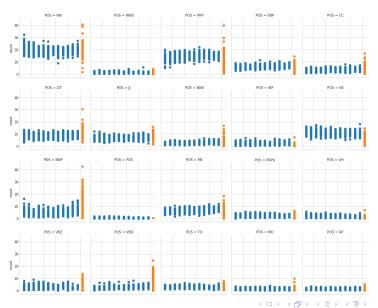
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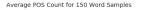


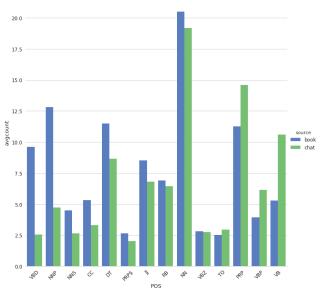




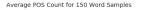


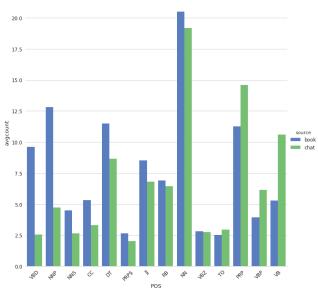
Analysis – Chat&Book POS



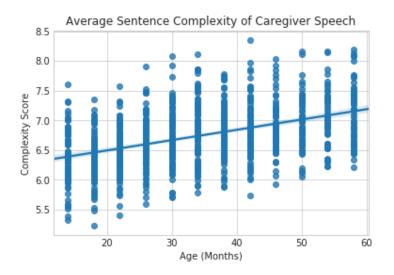


Analysis – Chat&Book POS

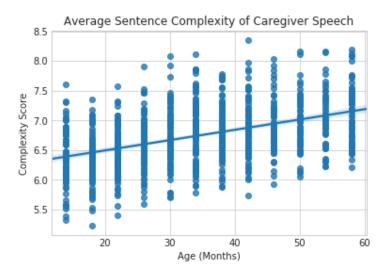




Analysis – Chat Complexity

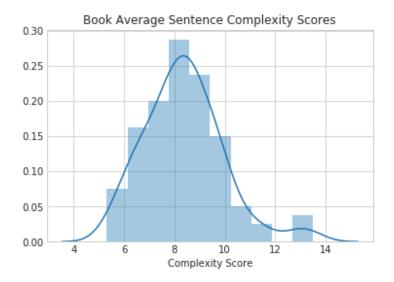


Analysis – Chat Complexity

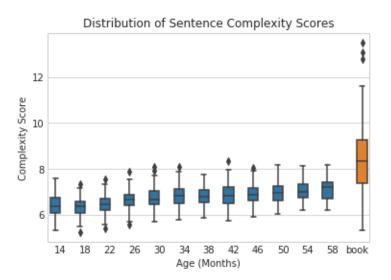


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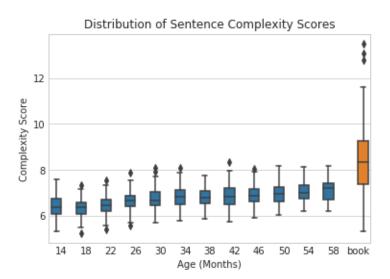
Analysis – Book Complexity



Analysis – Chat&Book Complexity



Analysis – Chat&Book Complexity



Future Directions

- Investigate variance further
- Collect temporal data for books (e.g., intended audience)
- Run similar analyses for child speech
- Compare children's book with adult books
- Compare child-directed speech with adult-directed speech