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Today's society is rapidly changing. Cultural and societal norms are shifting, the role of religion in families is decreasing, and rapid digitalisation and internationalisation all has an impact on how we as humans behave, feel, and develop. One of these factors, is the increase of children who are raised by single parents over the past 30 years. According to the Centraal Bureau voor de Statistiek (2020), in the Netherlands 16% of children live in single-parent households. In the United States, Pew Research (2019) found that this percentage is even higher, at 23%. A child's physical environment (Evans, 2005) and psychological environment (Culbertson et al., 2003) has a considerable impact on their general development, and on their first language acquisition. Studies like Morisset et al. (1990) have shown a significant relation between social risk and the domains of language and cognition development. Considering that there are differences in how mothers communicate with their child compared to fathers (Pierce et al., 2014), there is incentive to know the possible differences in first language acquisition in children raised by a single father, compared to a single mother.

In Europe alone, there are 7.8 million households consisting of single parents, making up around 4% of total households (Eurostat, 2024). Research has shown that children raised by a single parent score below average on measures of educational achievement (McLanahan & Sandefur, 1997). And single-parenthood is also not easy on the parents themselves: many indicate that they struggle financially, career wise or time wise (Stack & Meredith, 2017). Prejudice and stigma around single-parenthood adds additional stress to single parents. Insight into the effect that being raised by a single parent has on first language acquisition could provide single parents with insights on how to improve their child's language acquisition and general development. In addition, that data can also help to provide better support and resources to all members of single-parent households through helping the educational and early childhood professionals, counsellors, and policymakers meet the specific needs of the family members in this situation.

First language acquisition in children raised by single parents is a topic that lies in the intersection of multiple academic fields. Of course, it has

strong additional value to developmental linguistics: knowing more about the effect that being raised by a single parent can strongly contribute to the understanding of linguistic environments and specific factors influencing first language acquisition. There are already studies on the effects of parents on first language acquisition, like Karrass and Braungart-Rieker (2004) who looked into the effects of shared book reading on first language acquisition. There is also a wide variety of research into how mothers or fathers communicate, on bilingualism and many other factors, these studies often use households with multiple parental figures. Isolating the factor of the parental figure could contribute to a more nuanced understanding of how parental roles and genders shape language learning. Also to neighbouring fields like social sciences and psychology is this effect relevant, as it could add to understanding how factors like emotional bonds and stress levels in single-parent households affect cognitive and linguistic development.