Reading guide: Maslen et al (2004)

This article distinguishes *type* counts/frequency and **token** counts/frequency. As used here, type frequency would be the number of distinct words (lexemes) counted, while token frequency would be the number of all word-forms counted, even if they were repeats of the same lexeme.

(1)   Why is it important to determine whether or not nouns and verbs show similar rates of overregularization in English? What do Maslen et al. (2004) find in their noun-verb comparison — do nouns and verbs have different patterns of overregularization?

(2)   Maslen et al. make comparisons between Brian's data and some of the child language data that has been discussed in the literature (including Abe from the Maratsos (2000) article that we discussed in class). Describe two such comparisons: is Brian similar or different to the other child data discussed? In what way?

(3)   Do Maslen et al. support the 'blocking' model of overregularization in L1 acquisition as discussed by Pinker (and summarized in the current reading)? What arguments do they make to support their position?