Class discussion: Maslen et al (2004)

(1)   Do Maslen et al. support the blocking model of overregularization in L1 acquisition as discussed by Pinker (and summarized in the current reading)?

(2)   Group discussion: Each group should prepare to explain the designated tables or figures to the class, with a focus on those aspects that relate to the authors' argument. (Be prepared to look at the relevant discussion in the text, not just at the graphics themselves.)

   (a)   Table 1
   (b)   Figure 1 vs. Figure 2
   (c)   Table 2 vs Table 3
   (d)   Table 4 vs Table 5
   (e)   Figure 3 vs Figure 4—also, why are there no corresponding graphs for nouns?

(3)   *[If time]* What do Maslen et al. say about the fact that *blending* errors (such as droved for the past tense of drive) occur? Can the blocking model explain these forms?

(4)   What does this paper show us?

   (a)   Do you think that Maslen et al. have raised valid arguments against the blocking model as an account of children's acquisition of irregular inflectional morphology?
   (b)   Do you think that the authors have conclusively disproven the dual-route ("words and rules") model of inflectional morphology? (What do the authors themselves claim on this point?)