



On the Origin of Shallow Syntactic Bootstrapping

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Learning Words

- How children learn the meaning of words?

*doggy is playing with a
frisbee*



Cross-situational Learning: Using Co-occurrence Statistics

*doggy is playing
with a frisbee*



Cross-situational Learning: Using Co-occurrence Statistics

*doggy is playing
with a frisbee*



*She is throwing
the frisbee*

Syntactic Bootstrapping: Using Sentential Context

doggy is playing with a frisbee

Syntactic Bootstrapping: Using Sentential Context

doggy is playing with a frisbee

He is playing with a matchbox



Sara is cutting with a knife



Ian is washing with a soapbar



Syntactic Bootstrapping: Using Sentential Context

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X is DOing with a Y

physical
object

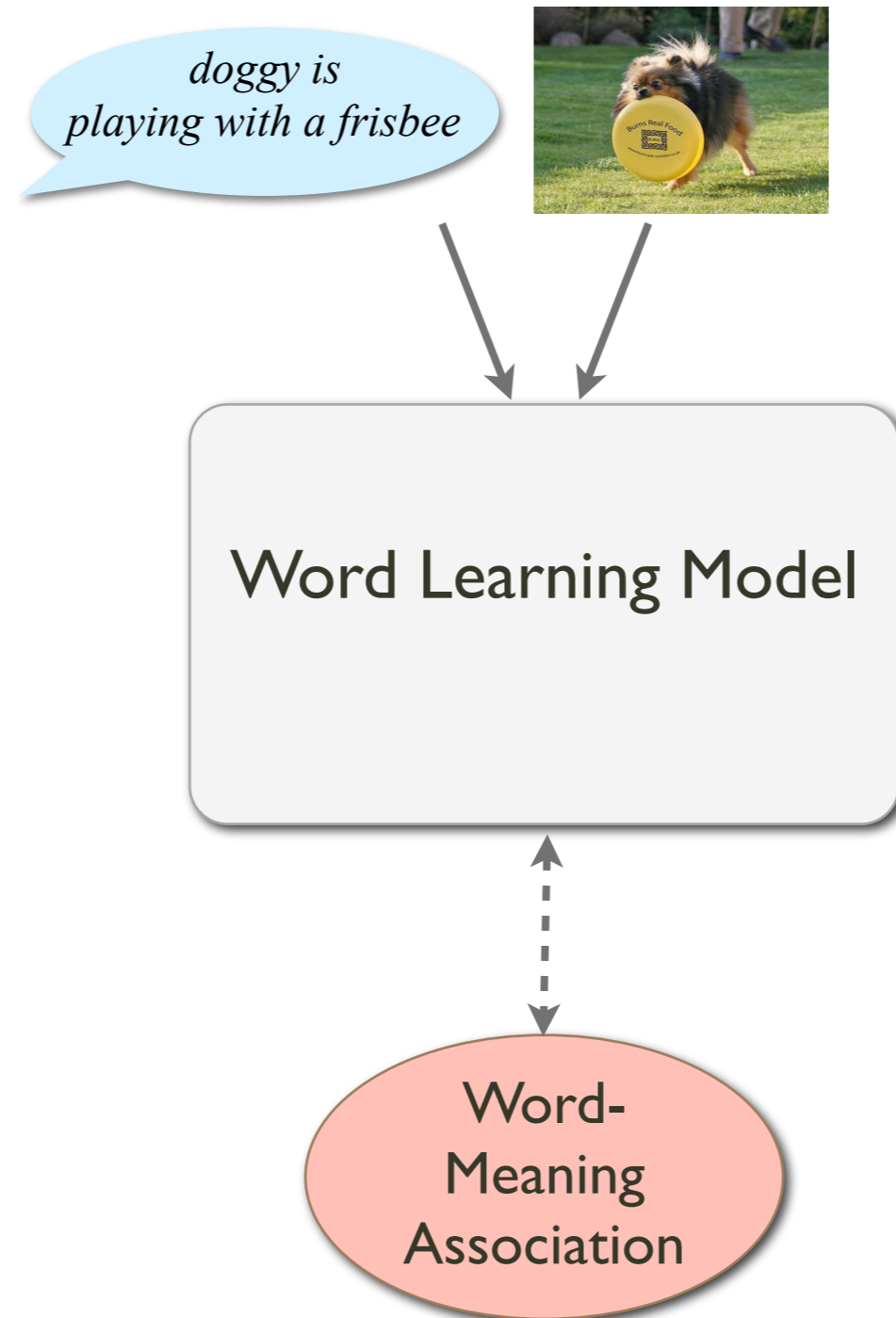
Main Questions

- How can these two mechanisms be integrated into a unified model of word learning?

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- What is the origin and onset of syntactic bootstrapping?

Modeling of Cross-situational Word Learning

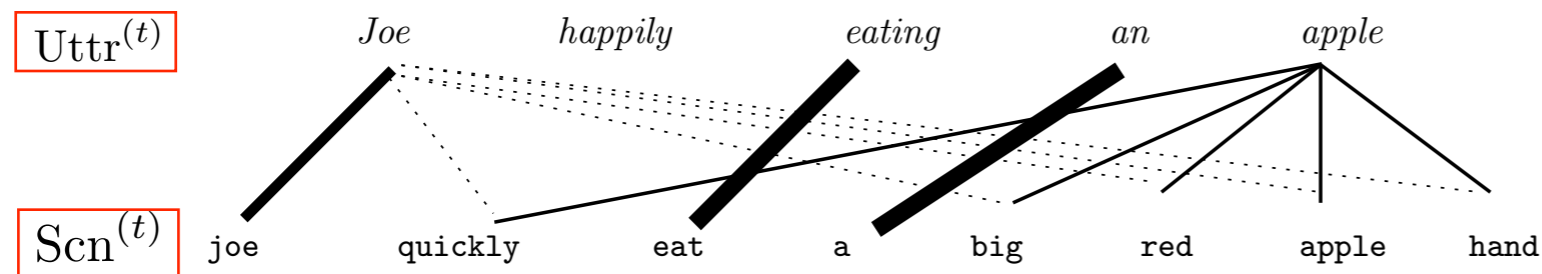


Cross-situational Learning [Fazly et al. 2010]

- For every new pair of scene and utterance, $(\text{Uttr}^{(t)}, \text{Scn}^{(t)})$
 1. **Alignment:** use previously learned meaning associations to align each word in utterance with each meaning element from the scene
 2. **Update:** use these alignments to update the probabilistic associations between a word and its meaning elements

Cross-situational Learning [Fazly et al. 2010]

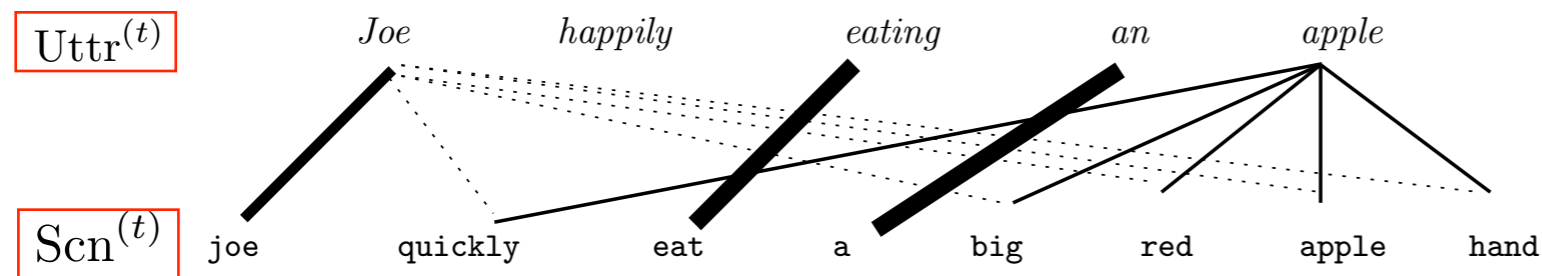
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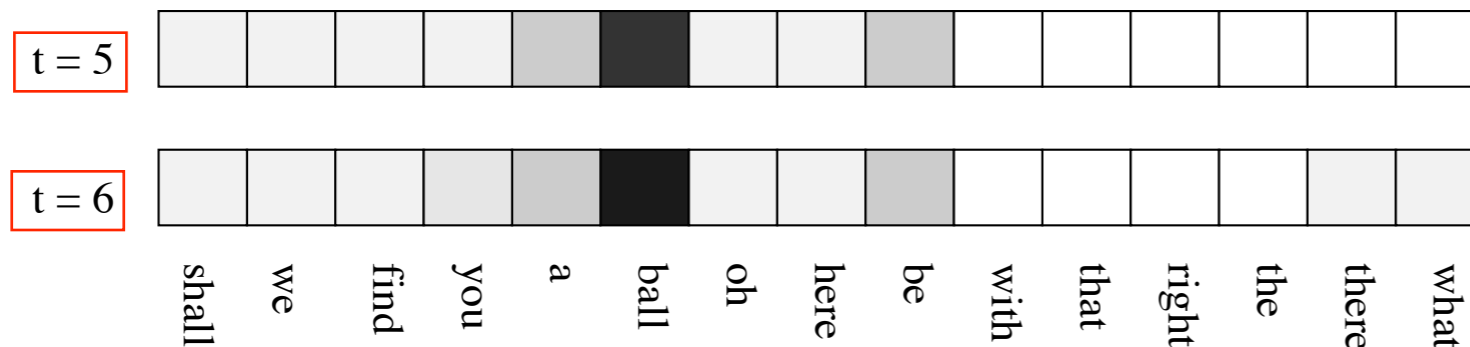
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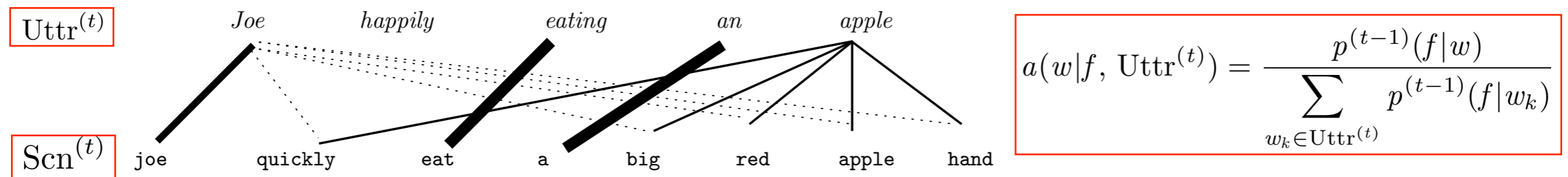


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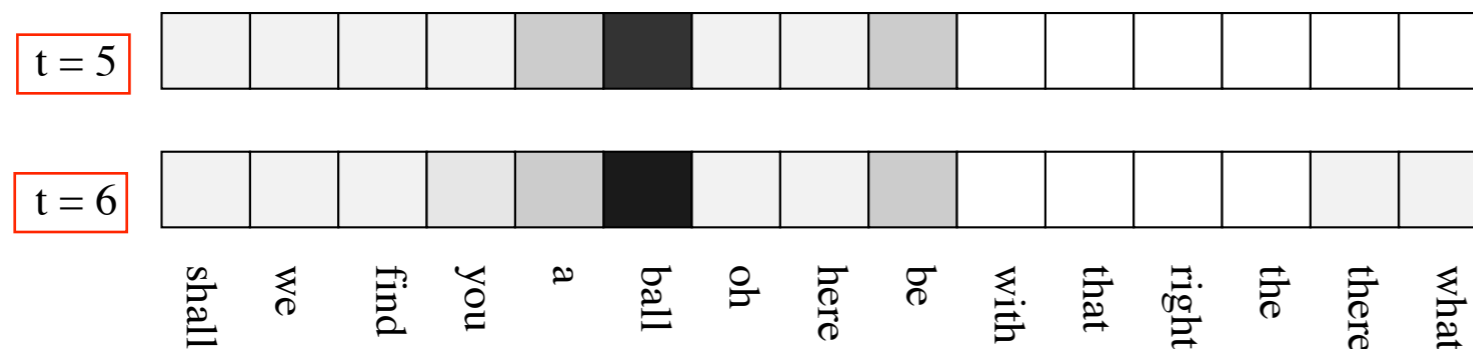


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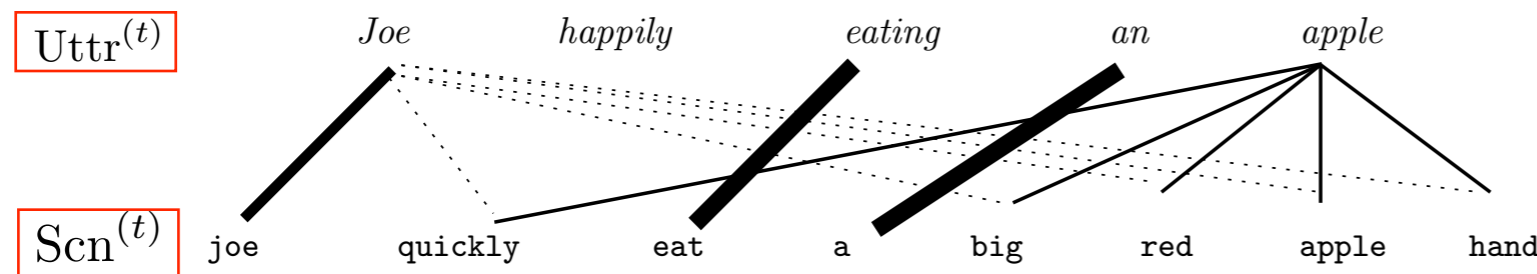


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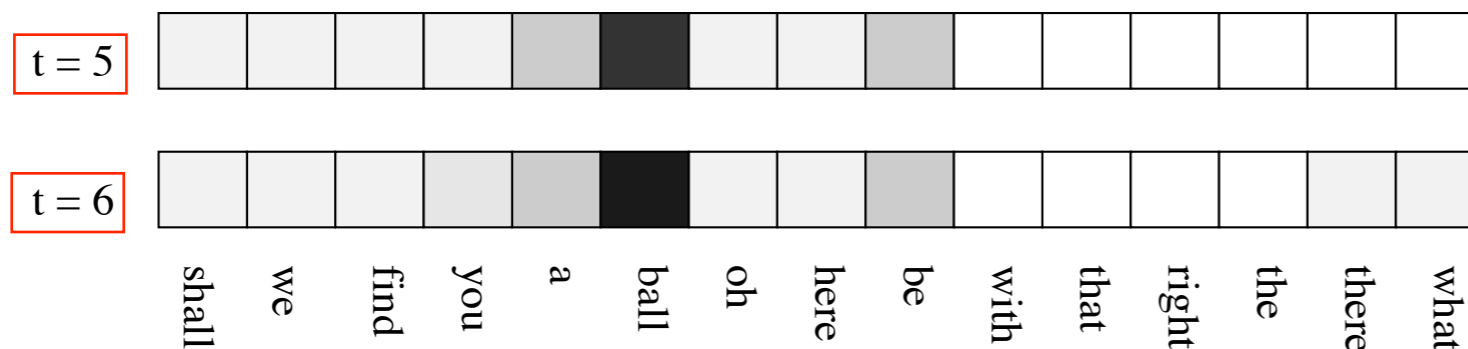
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$$a(w|f, \text{Uttr}^{(t)}) = \frac{p^{(t-1)}(f|w)}{\sum_{w_k \in \text{Uttr}^{(t)}} p^{(t-1)}(f|w_k)}$$

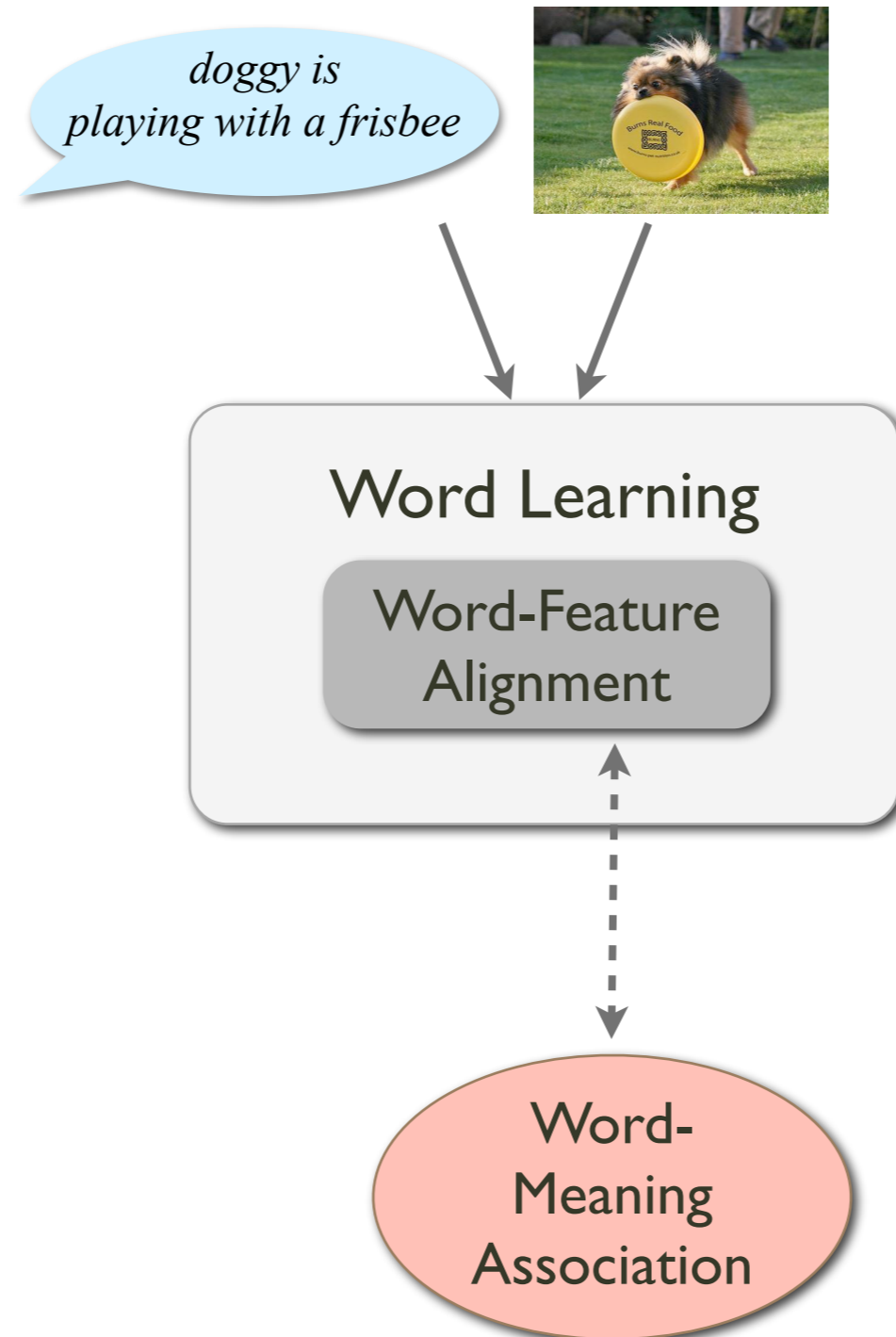
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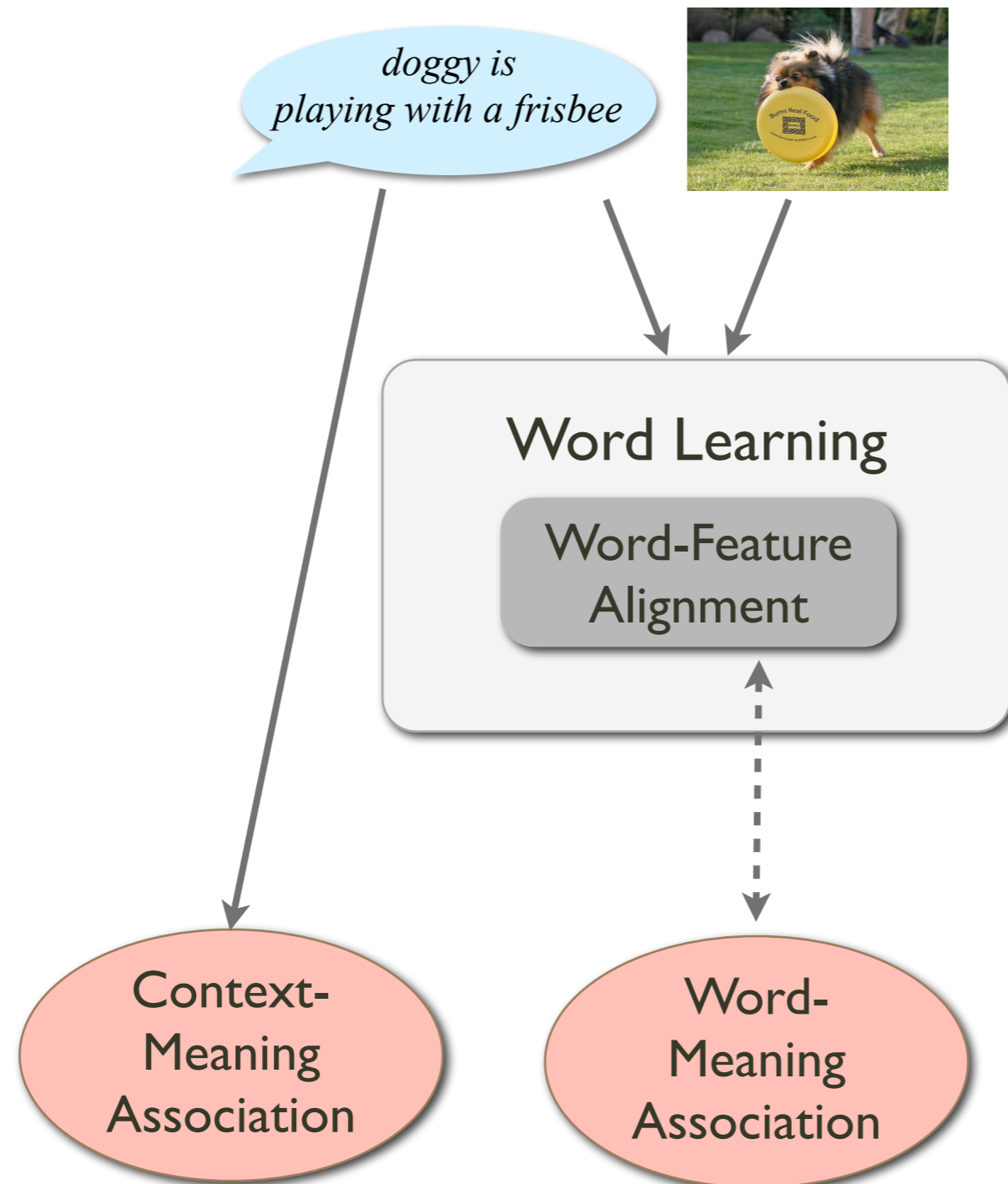
$$\text{assoc}^{(t)}(w, f) = \text{assoc}^{(t-1)}(w, f) + a(w|f, \text{Uttr}^{(t)})$$

$$p^{(t)}(f|w) = \frac{\text{assoc}^{(t)}(f, w)}{\sum_{f_j \in \mathcal{F}} \text{assoc}^{(t)}(f_j, w)}$$

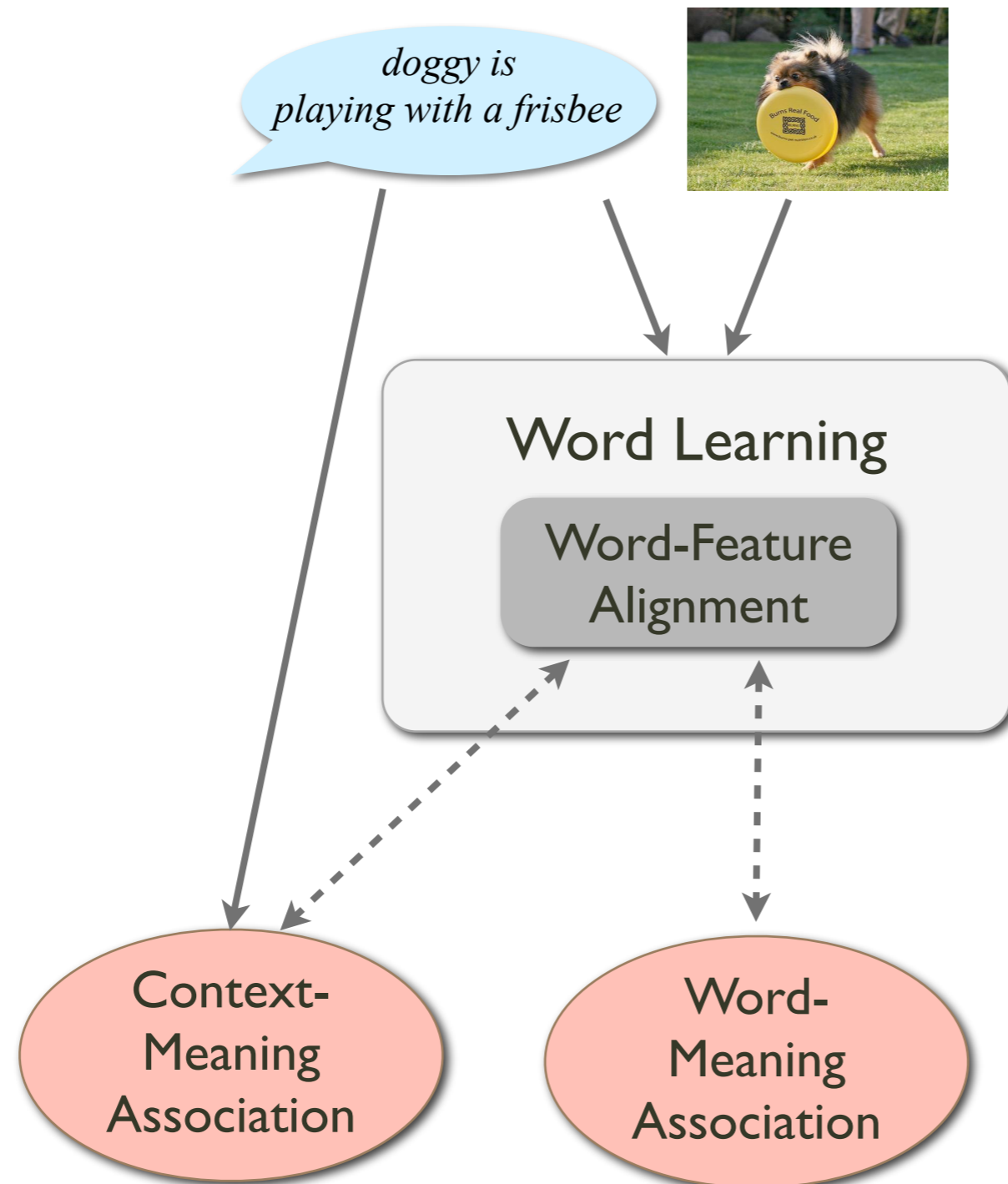
Adding Evidence from Sentential Context



Adding Evidence from Sentential Context



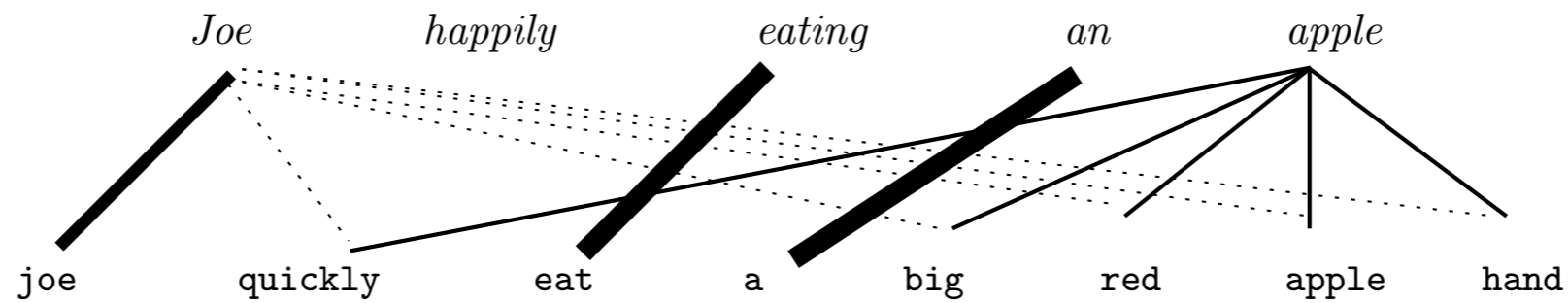
Adding Evidence from Sentential Context



Lexical Categories as a Source for “Shallow” Syntactic Bootstrapping

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Cross-situational
Word Meaning

$$P(f|w)$$

$$a_w(w|f, \text{Uttr}^{(t)}) = \frac{p^{(t-1)}(f|w)}{\sum_{w_k \in \text{Uttr}^{(t)}} p^{(t-1)}(f|w_k)}$$

Meaning Associated
w. Lexical Category

$$P(f|C)$$

$$a_c(w|f, \text{Uttr}^{(t)}) = \frac{p^{(t-1)}(f|\text{cat}(w))}{\sum_{w_k \in \text{Uttr}^{(t)}} p^{(t-1)}(f|\text{cat}(w_k))}$$

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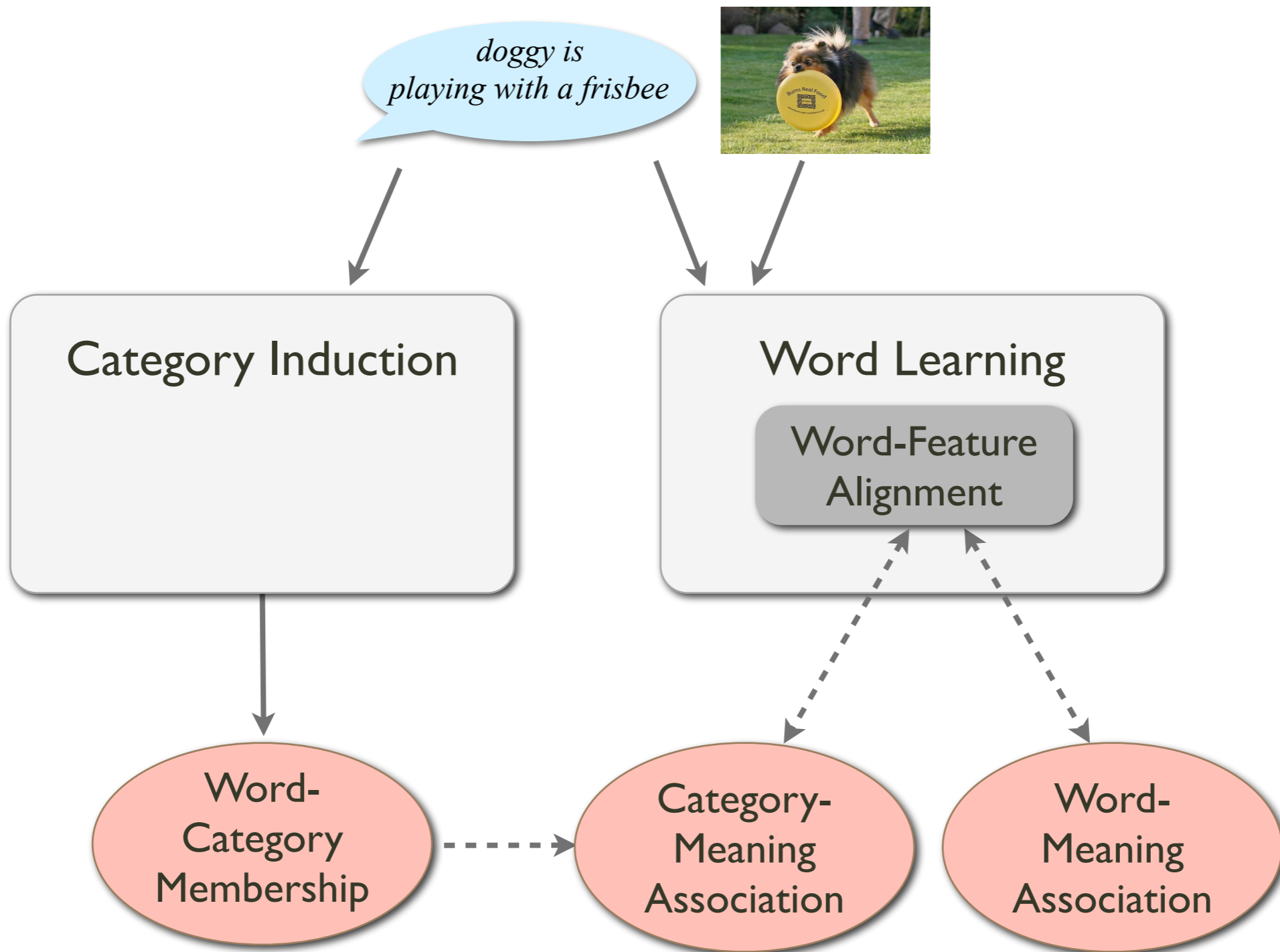
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$$a(w|f, \text{Uttr}^{(t)}) = \text{weight}(w) \cdot a_w(w|f, \text{Uttr}^{(t)}) + (1 - \text{weight}(w)) \cdot a_c(w|f, \text{Uttr}^{(t)}) \quad \text{weight}(w) = \frac{\text{freq}(w)}{\text{freq}(w) + 1}$$



Automatically Induced Categories

- Latent Dirichlet Allocation-based model
 - A hierarchical Bayesian model for inducing a topic structure from a collection of documents

$$\phi_k \sim \text{Dirichlet}(\beta), \quad k \in [1, K]$$

$$\theta_d \sim \text{Dirichlet}(\alpha), \quad d \in [1, D]$$

$$z_{n_d} \sim \text{Categorical}(\theta_d), \quad n_d \in [1, N_d]$$

$$w_{n_d} \sim \text{Categorical}(\phi_{z_{n_d}}), \quad n_d \in [1, N_d]$$

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$$d \in [1, D] \rightarrow \textit{documents}$$

$$n_d \in [1, N_d] \rightarrow \textit{words}$$

$$n_d \in [1, N_d]$$

Automatically Induced Categories

- Chrupala (2011) reinterpretation of LDA:
 - Word types correspond to documents
 - Context words correspond to words in documents

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$$k \in [1, K] \rightarrow \textit{word classes}$$

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$$z_{n_d} \sim \text{Categorical}(\theta_d),$$

$$n_d \in [1, N_d] \rightarrow \textit{context features}$$

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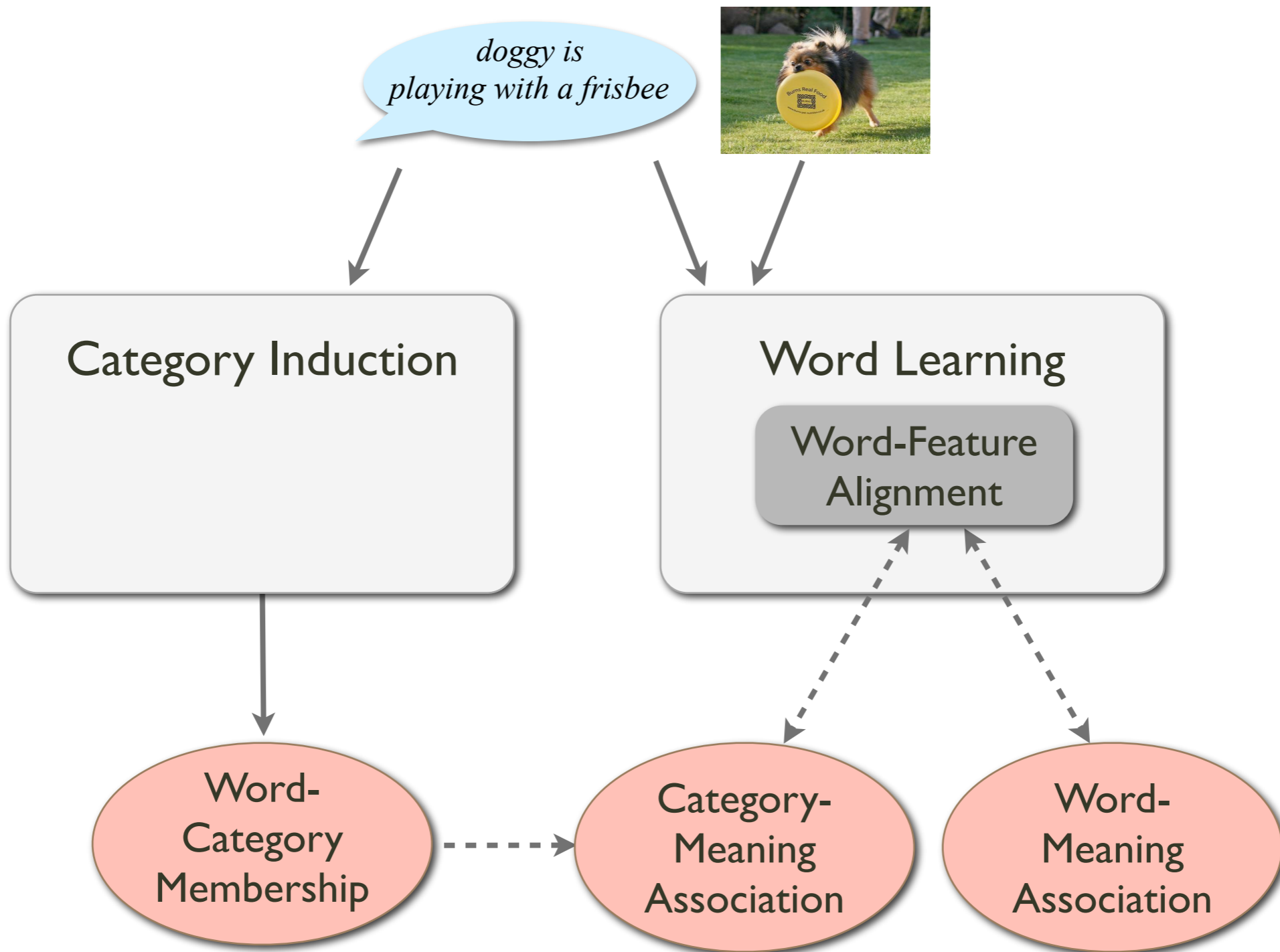
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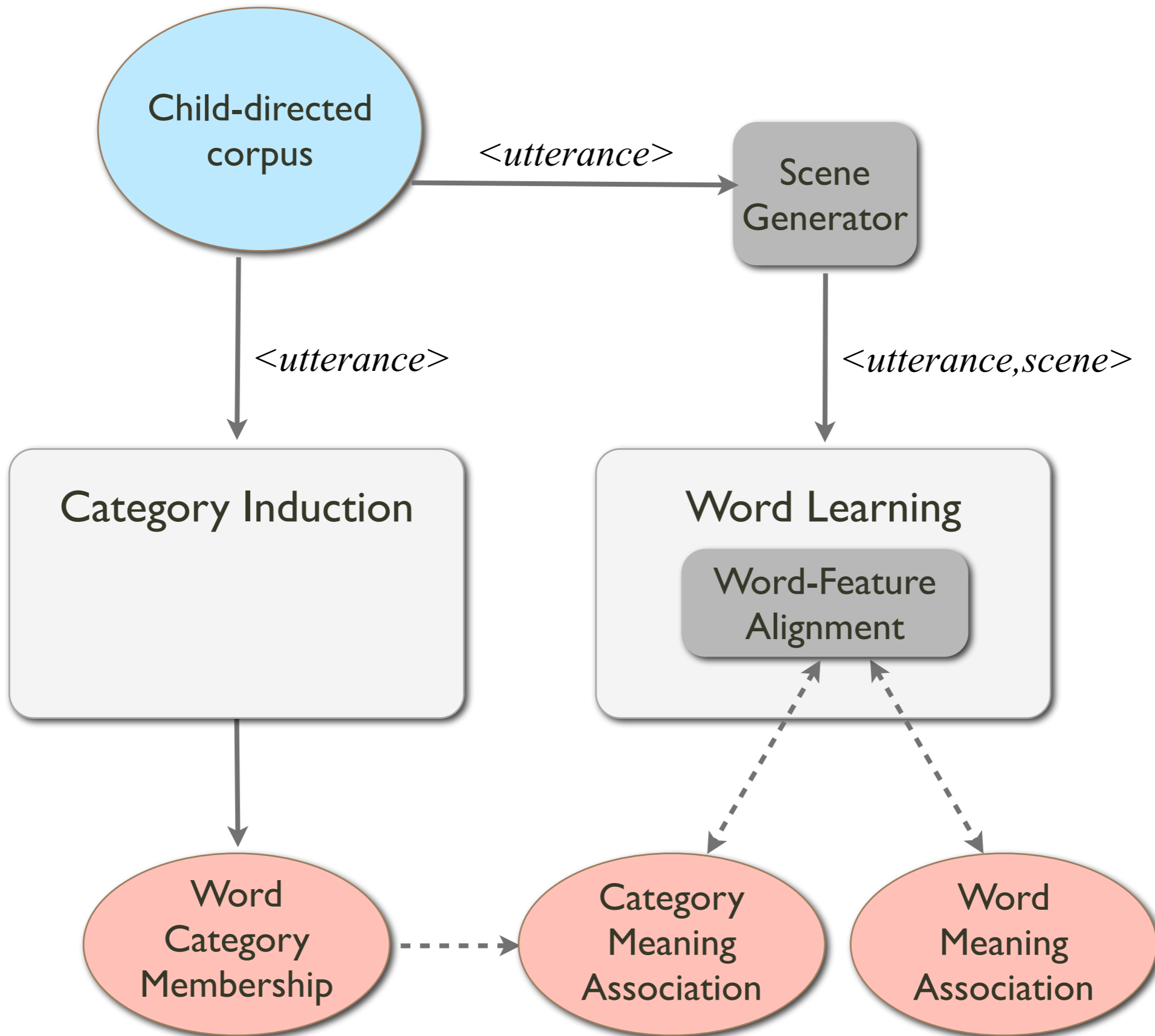
$$d \in [1, D] \rightarrow \textit{word types}$$

$$n_d \in [1, N_d] \rightarrow \textit{context features}$$

$$n_d \in [1, N_d]$$

*class membership of
word d given
context N_d*





Input Data

- A sample input item:

Utterance:	{ <i>mommy, ate, broccoli</i> }
Scene:	{ ANIMATE, HUMAN, ..., CONSUMPTION, ACTION, ... BROCCOLI, VEGETABLE, ... PLATE, OBJECT, ... }

Input Data

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- Child-adult interaction data from CHILDES [MacWhinney'95]
 - Manchester corpus [Theakston et al.'01]
 - Pearl-Sprouse corpus [Pearl & Sprouse'13]

Input Data

- Child-directed utterances from each corpus

that is an apple

do you like apple?

do you want to give dolly an apple?

can teddy bear give penguin a kiss?

...

Input Data

- ... paired with meaning primitives extracted from WordNet

that is an apple

definite, be, edible, fruit, ...

do you like apple?

do, person, you, desire, edible, fruit, ...

do you want to give dolly an apple?

do, person, you, want, location, artifact, ...

can teddy bear give penguin a kiss?

artifact, object, teddy, animal, bear, ...

...

...

Input Data

- ... and subsequent primitive sets combined to simulate referential uncertainty:

that is an apple

definite, be, edible, fruit, ...

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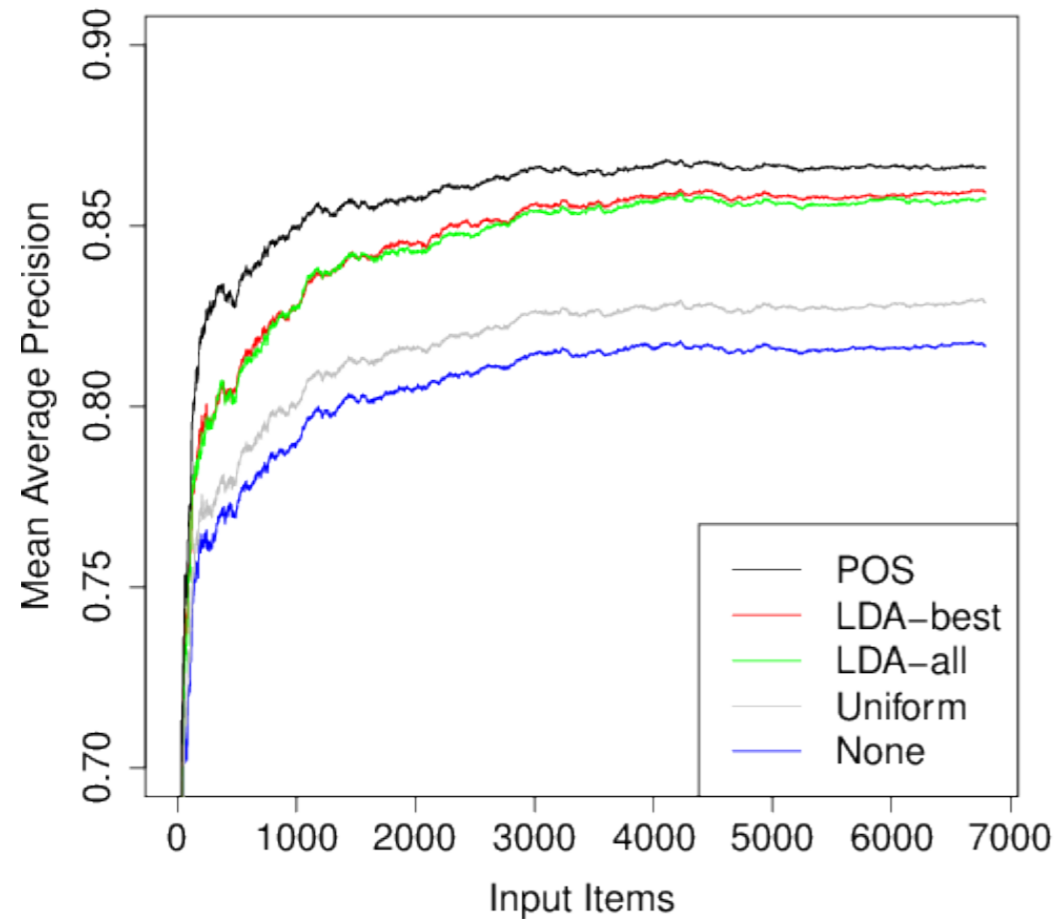
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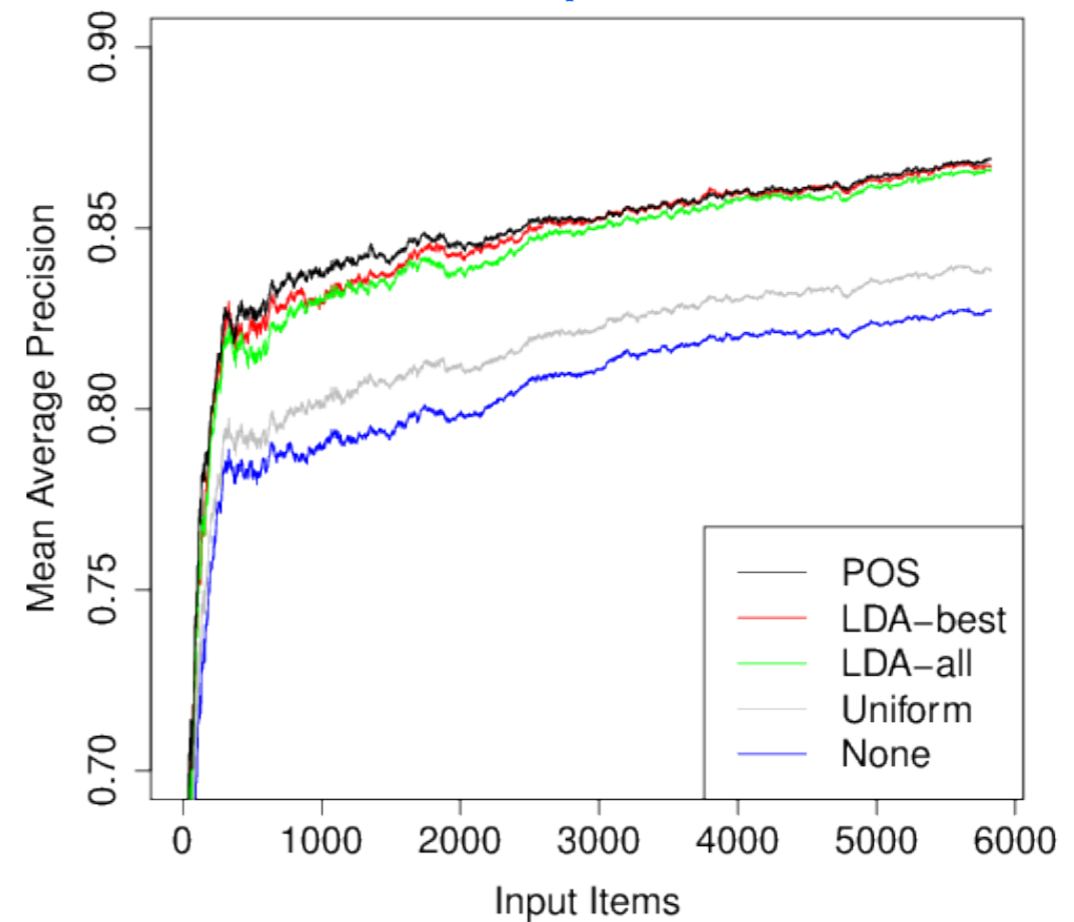
...

Automatically Induced Categories

Manchester

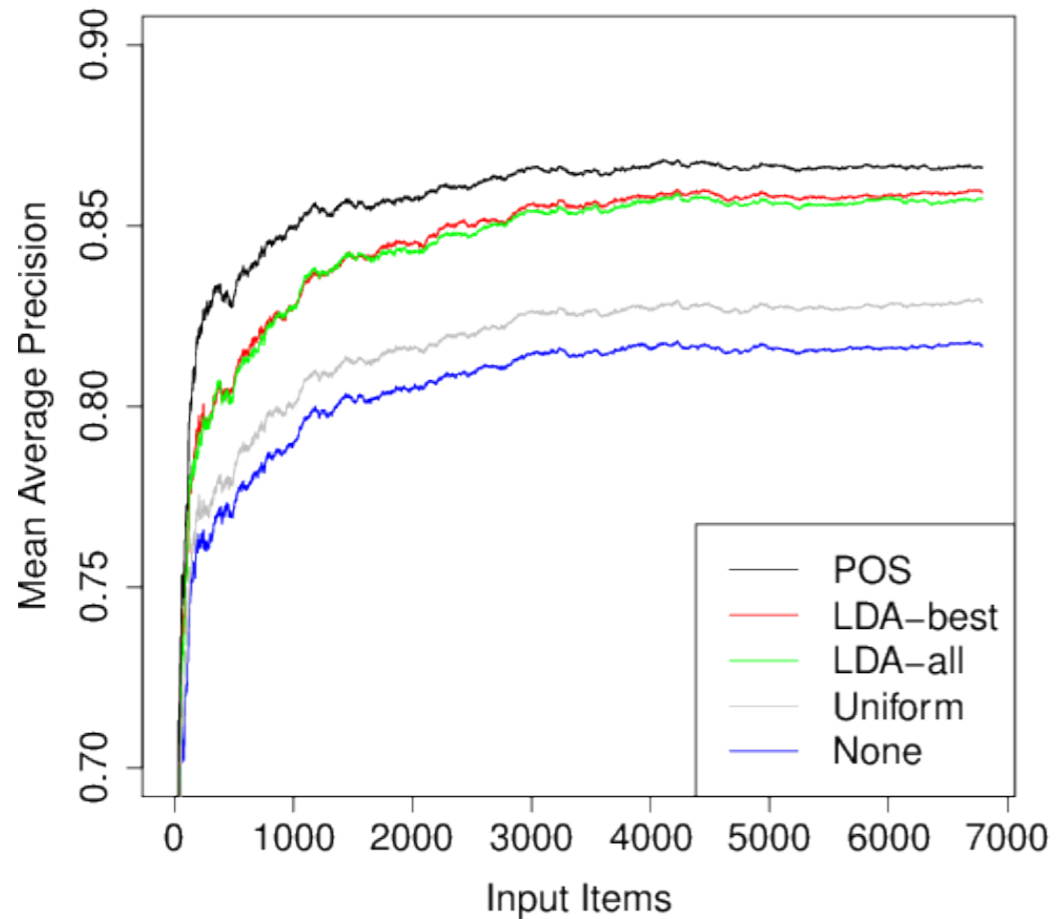


Pearl-Sprouse

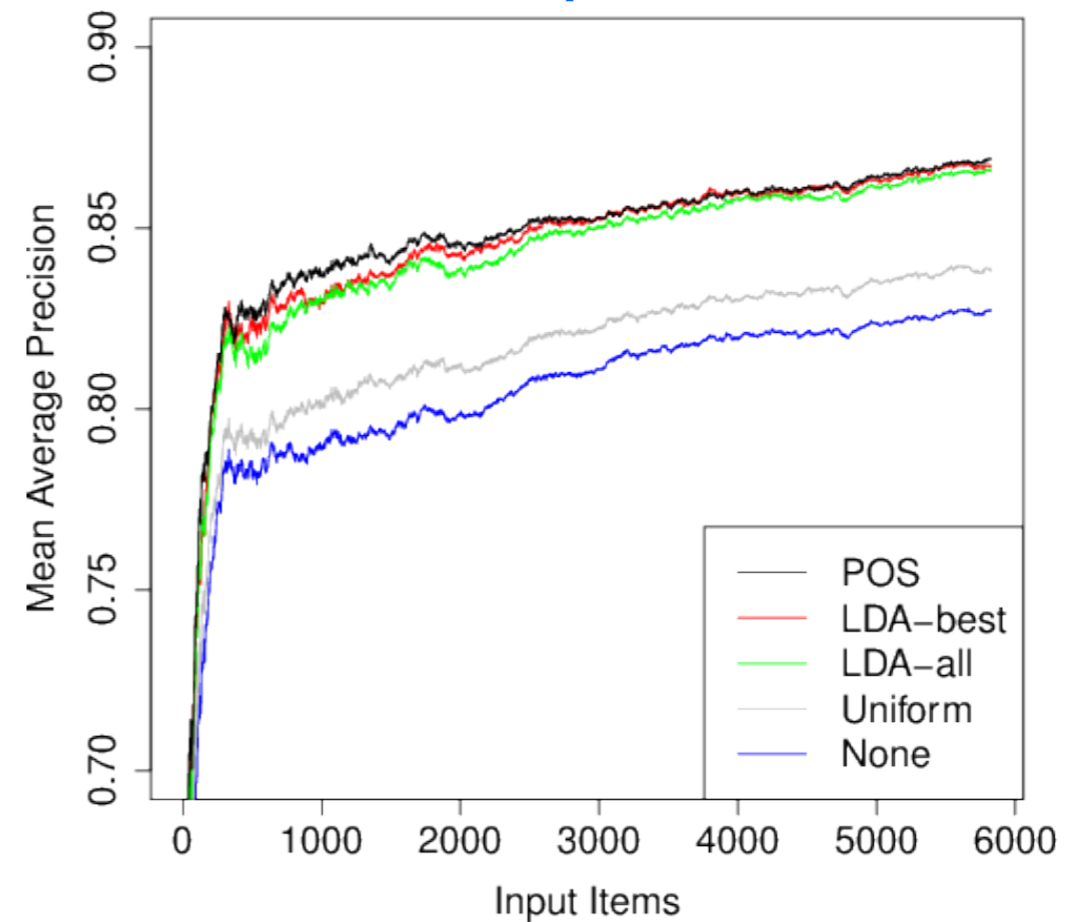


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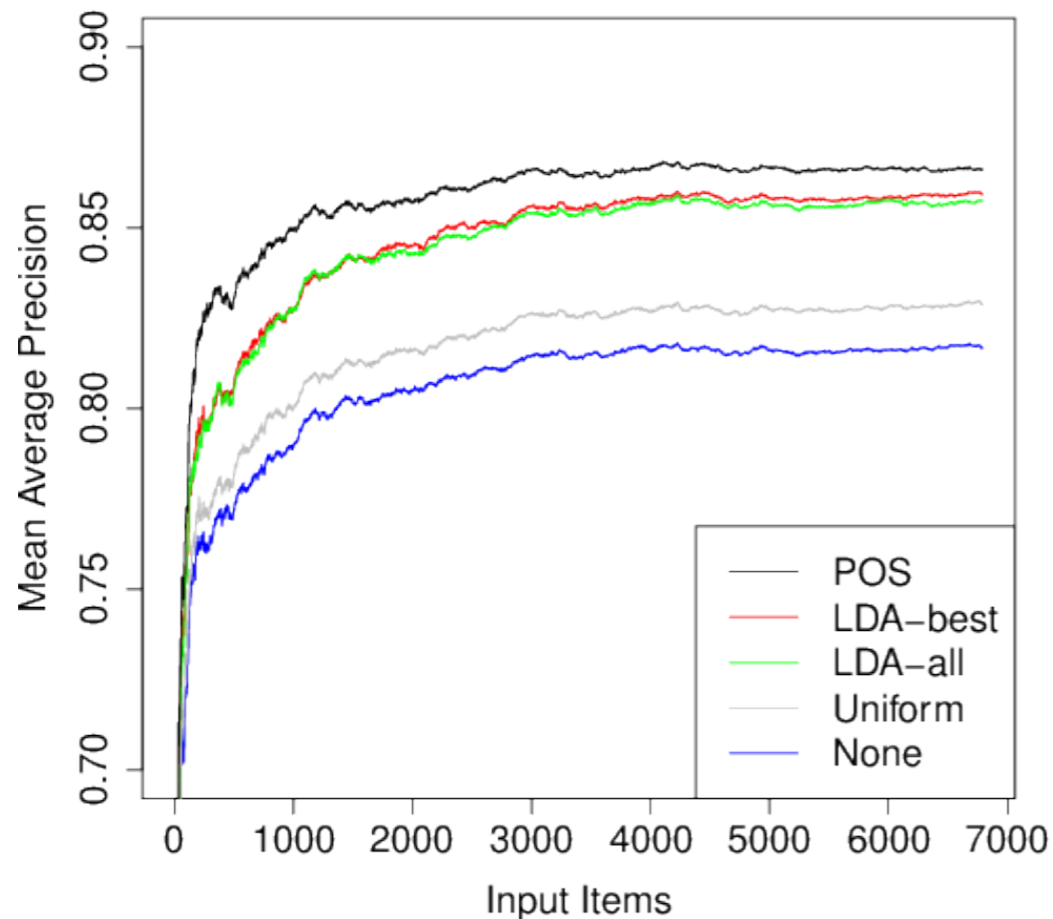
Pearl-Sprouse



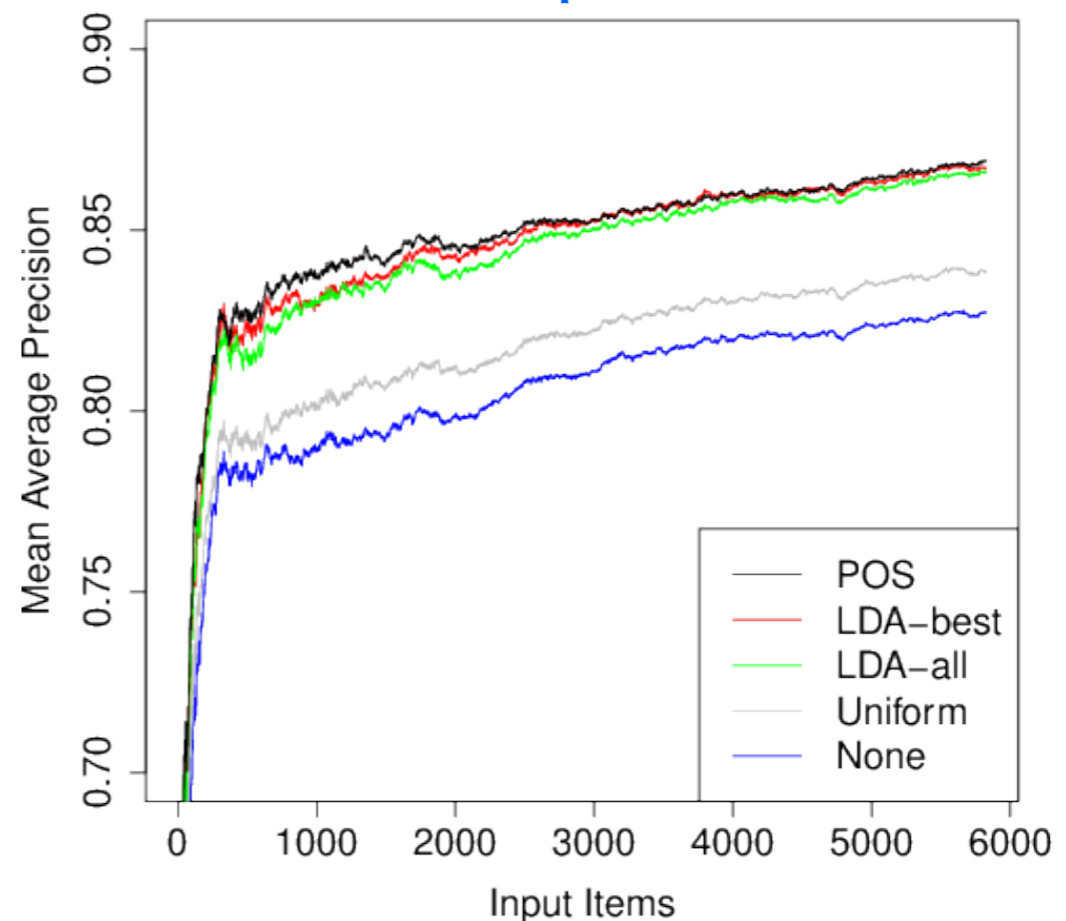
➔ Categories significantly improve word learning performance

Automatically Induced Categories

Manchester



Pearl-Sprouse



- ➔ Categories significantly improve word learning performance
- ➔ LDA-based categories are comparable to manually-annotated, “gold” POS categories

Guessing Meaning from Context

*I ate **zag** for lunch.*

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-2	-1	0	1	2
<i>I</i>	<i>ate</i>	<i>zag</i>	<i>for</i>	<i>lunch</i>

Guessing Meaning from Context

I ate zag for lunch.

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Categorize

C_w

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...

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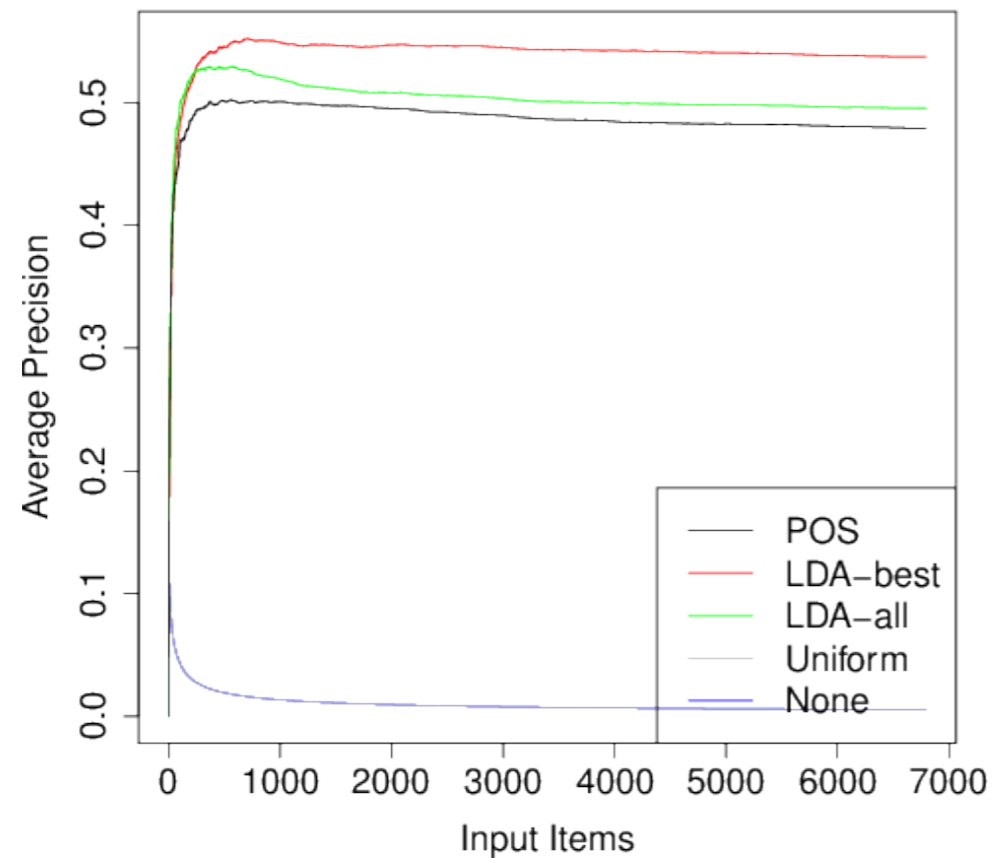
C_w

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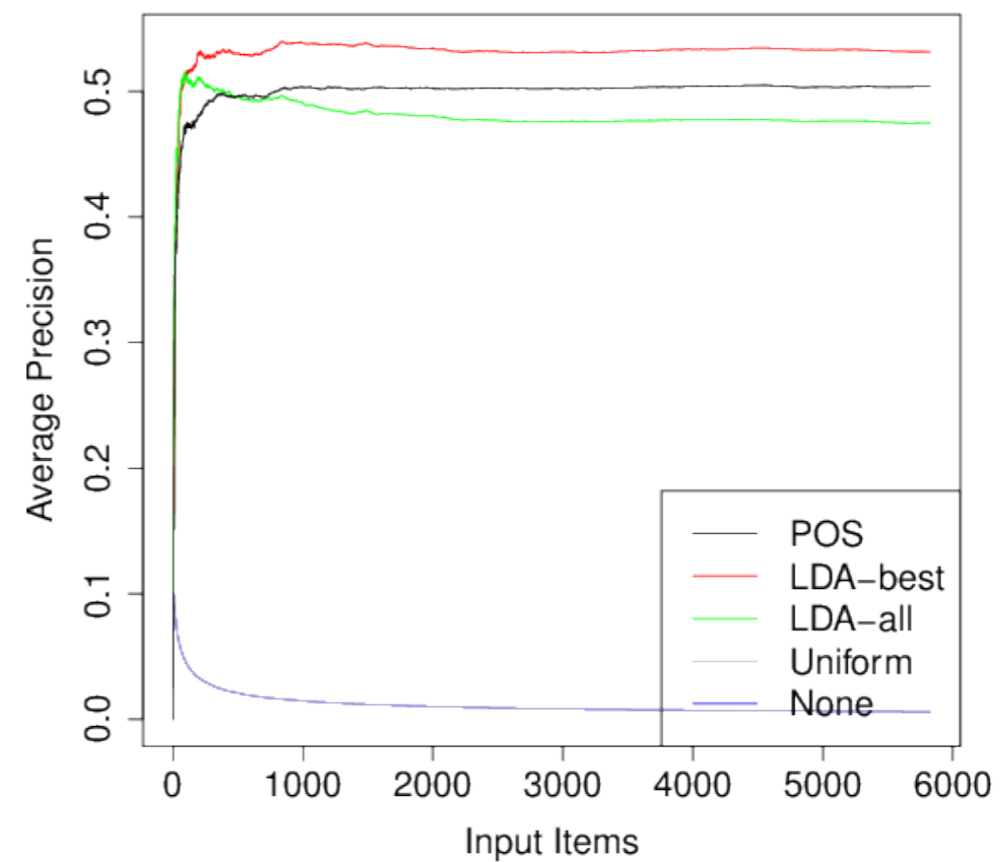
entity
object
substance
matter
food
edible
:

Accuracy of Guessed Meaning

Manchester



Pearl-Sprouse

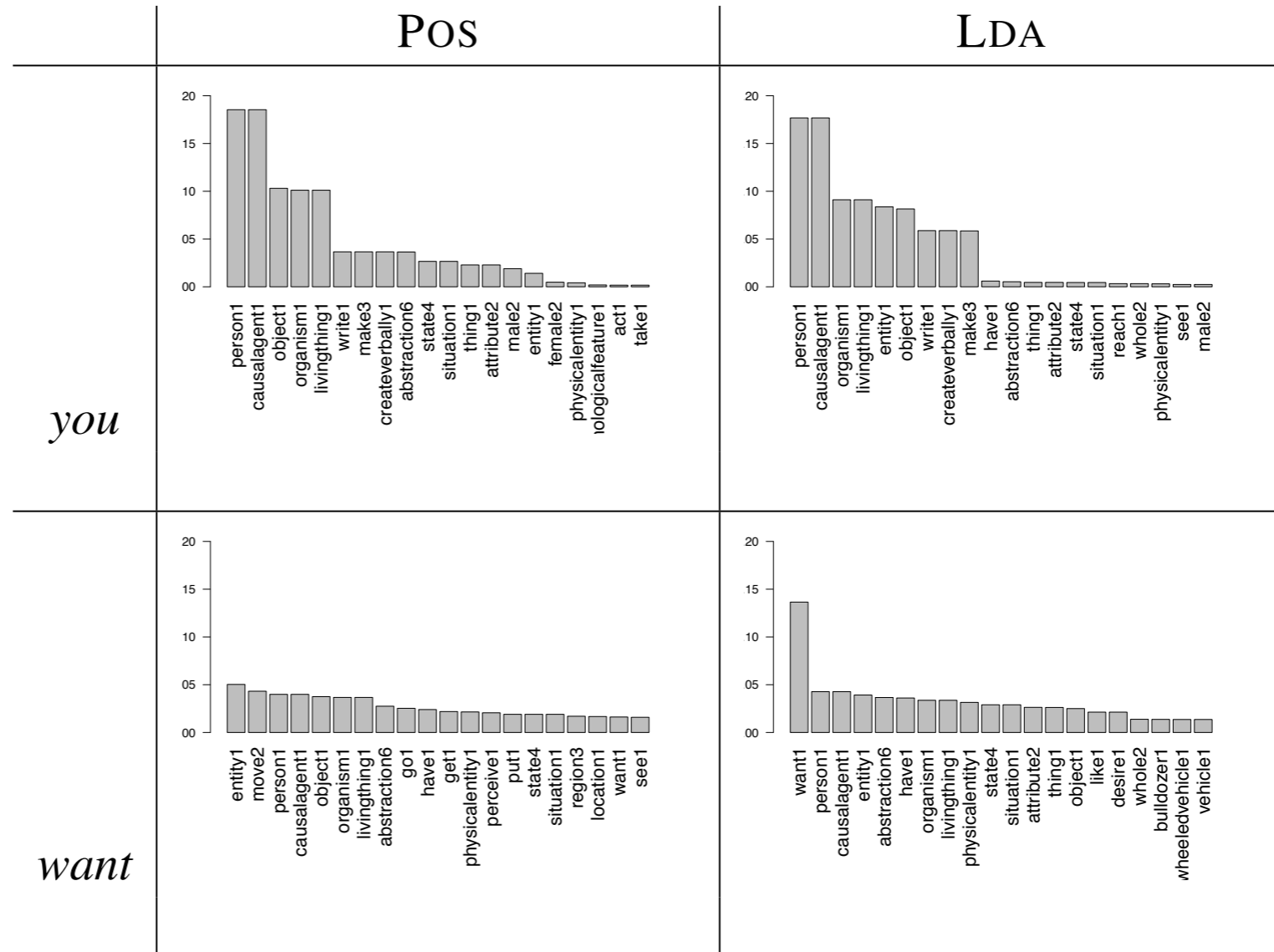


An Example

do you want to read a book?

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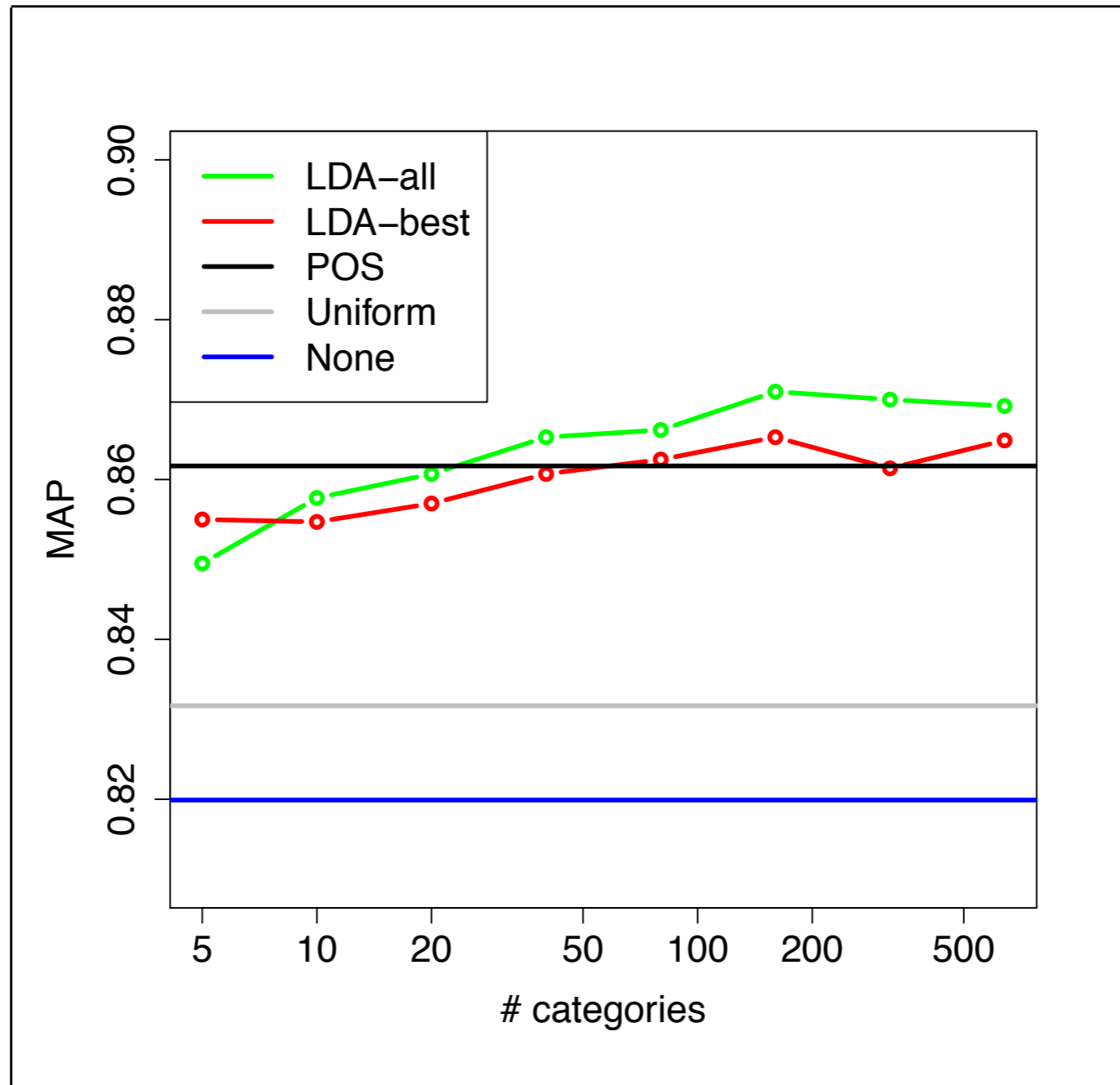
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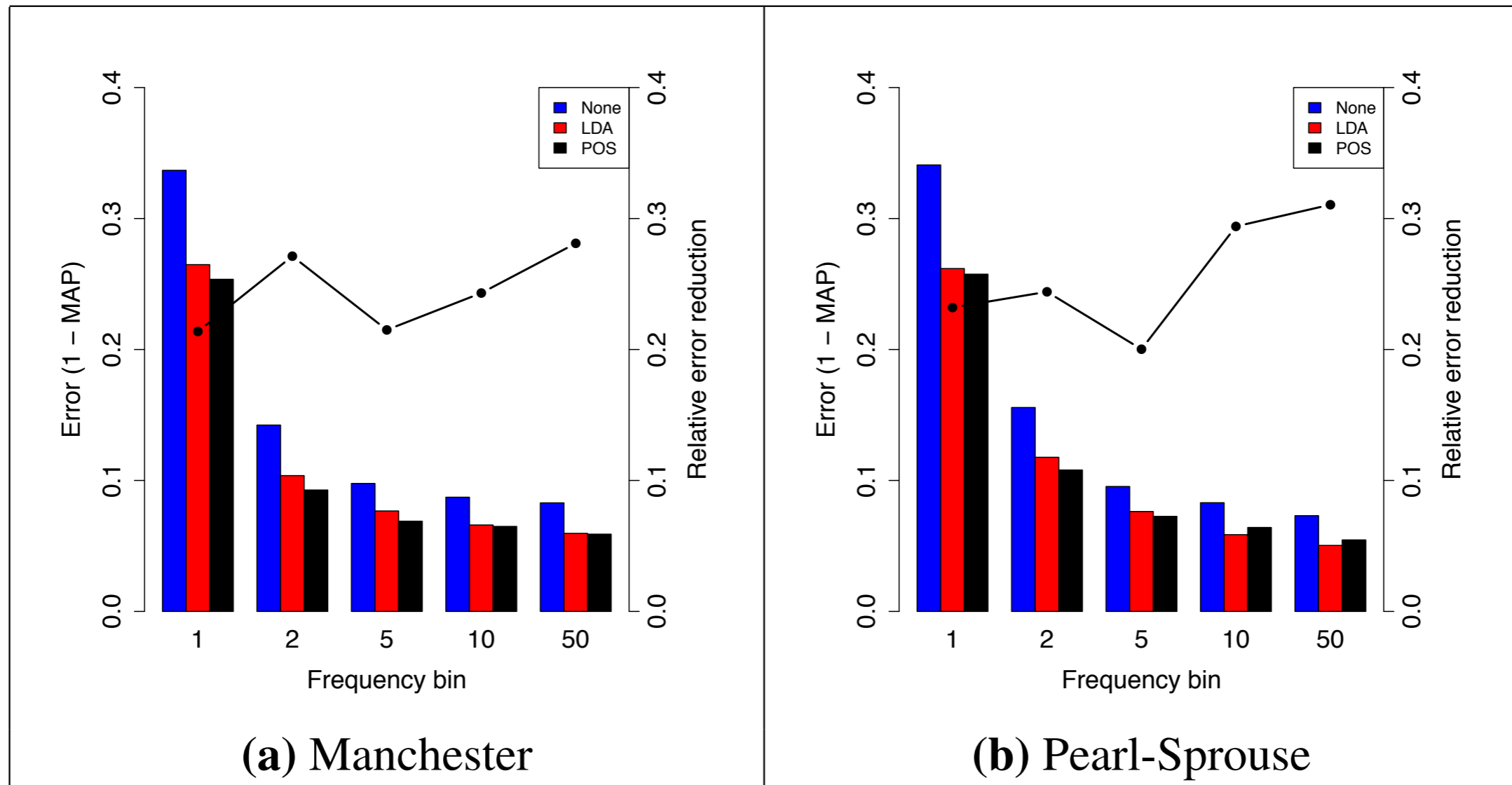
Summary

- Syntactic information can be seamlessly integrated into cross-situational learning
- Appropriate categories can improve the overall word learning performance
- Automatically induced, data-driven categories are as effective as the manually-annotated POS categories

Class Granularity



Impact of Word Frequency



Automatically Induced Categories

- An incremental version of the collapsed Gibbs sampler:

```
for  $t = 1 \rightarrow \infty$  do  
  for  $i = 1 \rightarrow l_t$  do  
    sample  $z_{t_i} \sim P(z_{t_i} | \mathbf{z}_{t_i-1}, \mathbf{w}_{t_i}, \mathbf{d}_{t_i})$   
    increment  $n_t^{z_{t_i}, w_{t_i}}$  and  $n_t^{z_{t_i}, d_{t_i}}$ 
```

- Only conditioned on previous word tokens:

$$P(z_t | \mathbf{z}_{t-1}, \mathbf{w}_t, \mathbf{d}_t) \propto \frac{(n_{t-1}^{z_t, d_t} + \alpha) \times (n_{t-1}^{z_t, w_t} + \beta)}{\sum_{j=1}^{V_{t-1}} n_{t-1}^{z_t, w_j} + \beta}.$$