

# Comparing the Language Development of Native and Foreign Born Children



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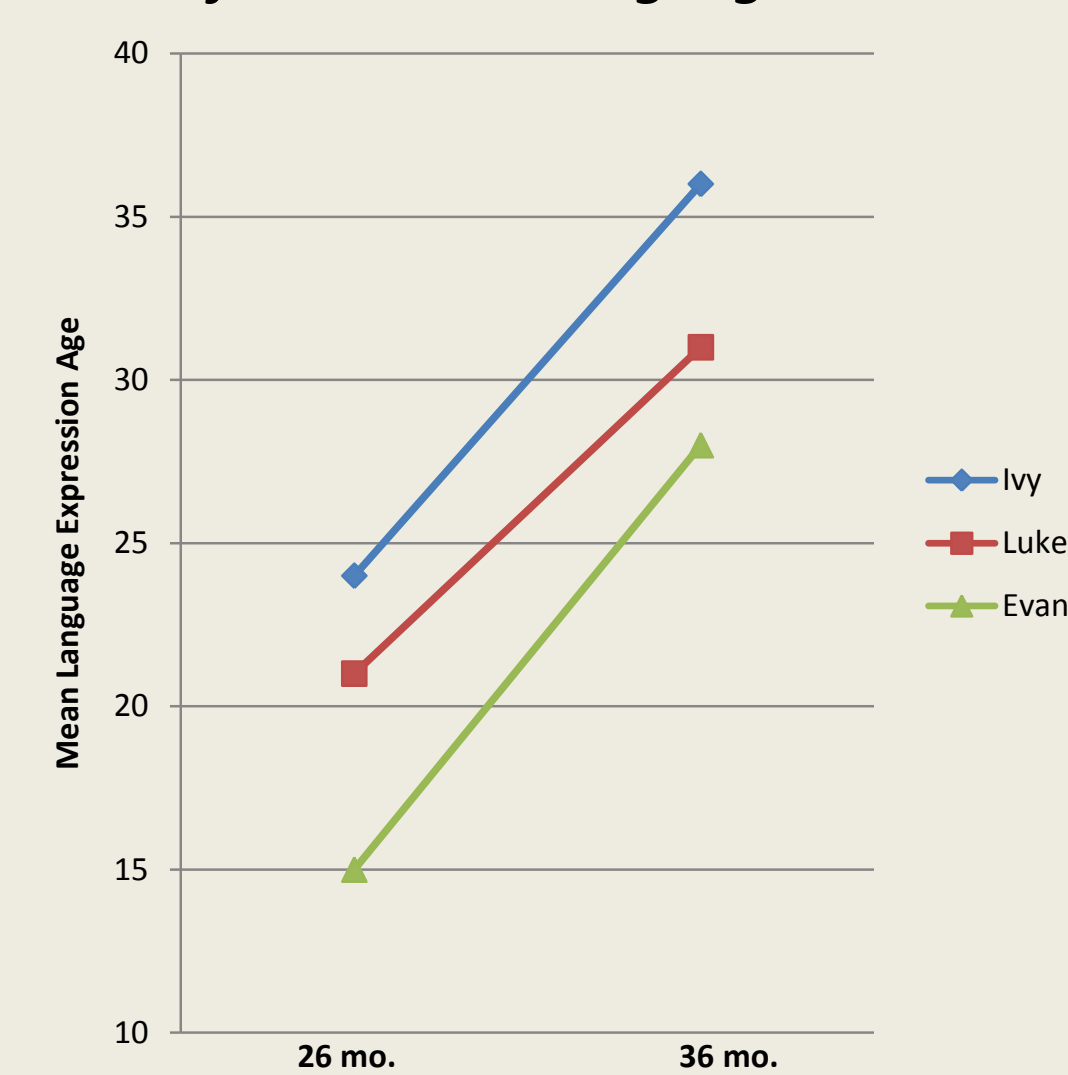
Communication Sciences and Disorders ♦ **University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire**

## Research Questions

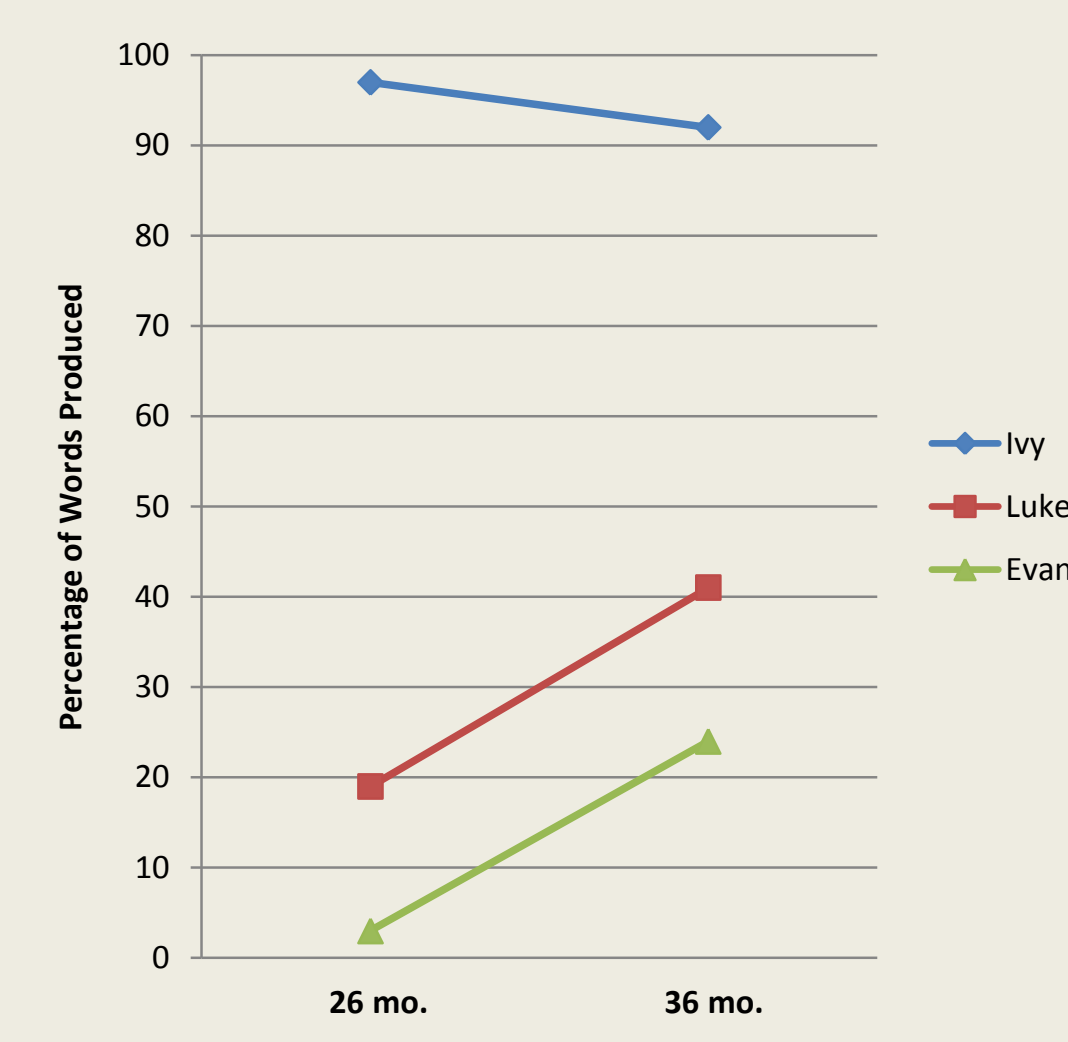
- What are the differences and/or similarities in the development of semantics for native and foreign born toddlers?
- What are the differences and similarities in the development of syntax for native and foreign born toddlers?
- What are the differences and/or similarities in the development of pragmatics for native and foreign born toddlers?

## Pre- and Post-Testing

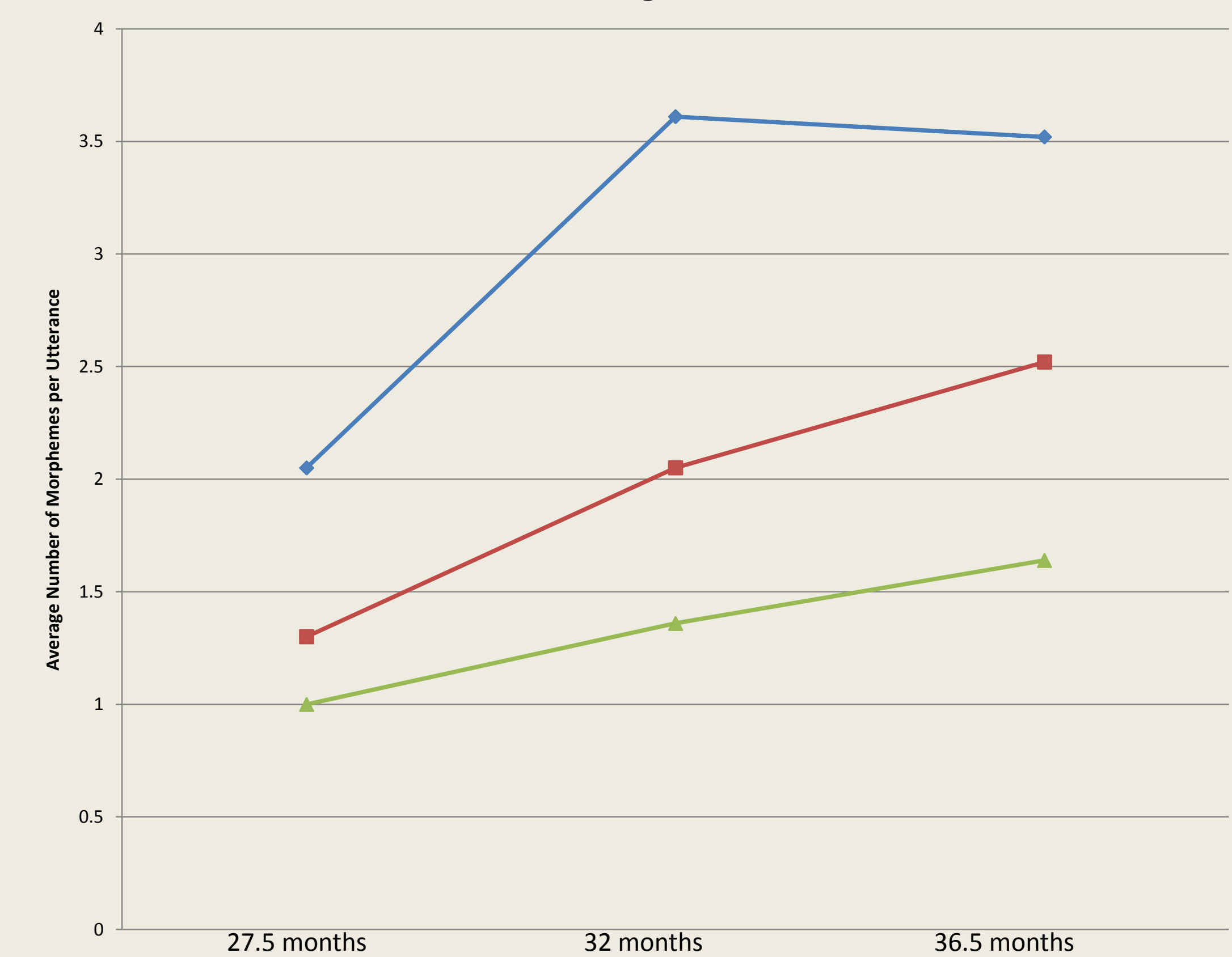
*The Rossetti Infant-Toddler Language Scale*



*MacArthur-Bates Communicative Development Inventories*



Mean Length of Utterance

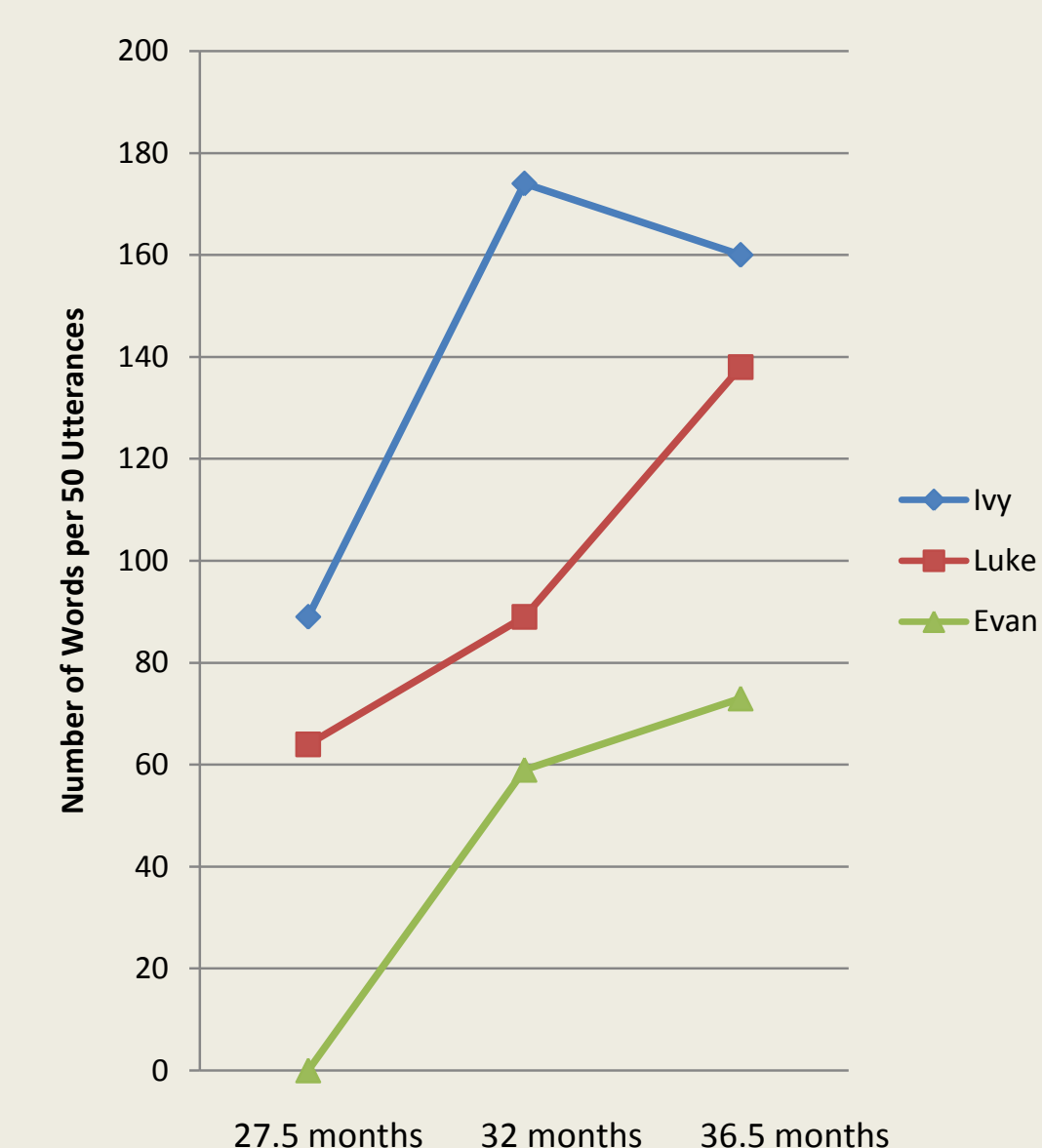


## Participants

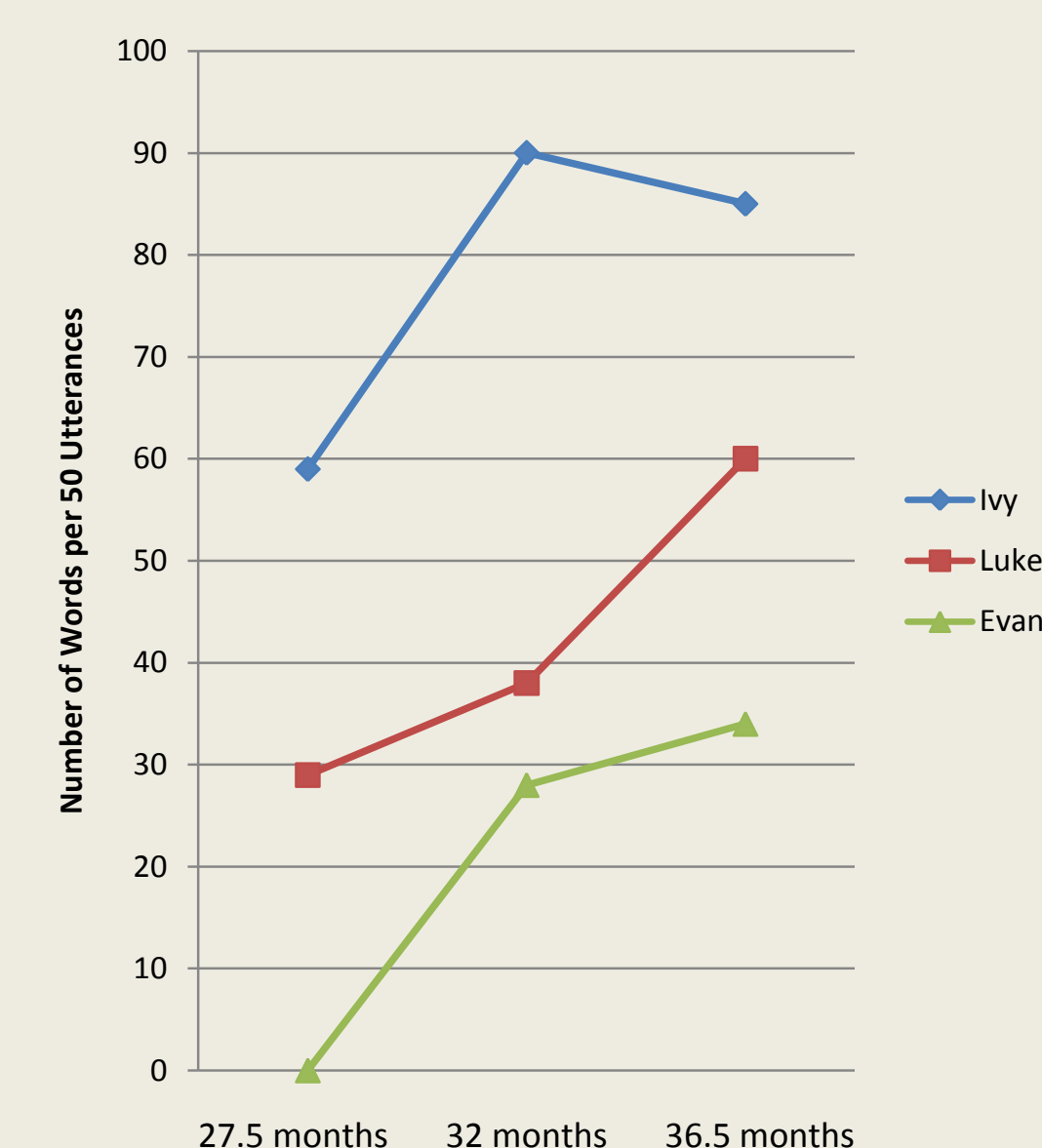
- Ivy:** Born to English speaking parents
  - Lives with mother and father
- Luke:** Born to English speaking parents
  - Lives with mother and father
- Evan:** Adopted from Ethiopia at 22 months
  - No exposure to English pre-adoption
  - Started speech therapy at 29 months
  - Lives with mother, father, & older sister

## Type Token Ratio

Total Number of Words



Total Number of Different Words



## Pragmatics

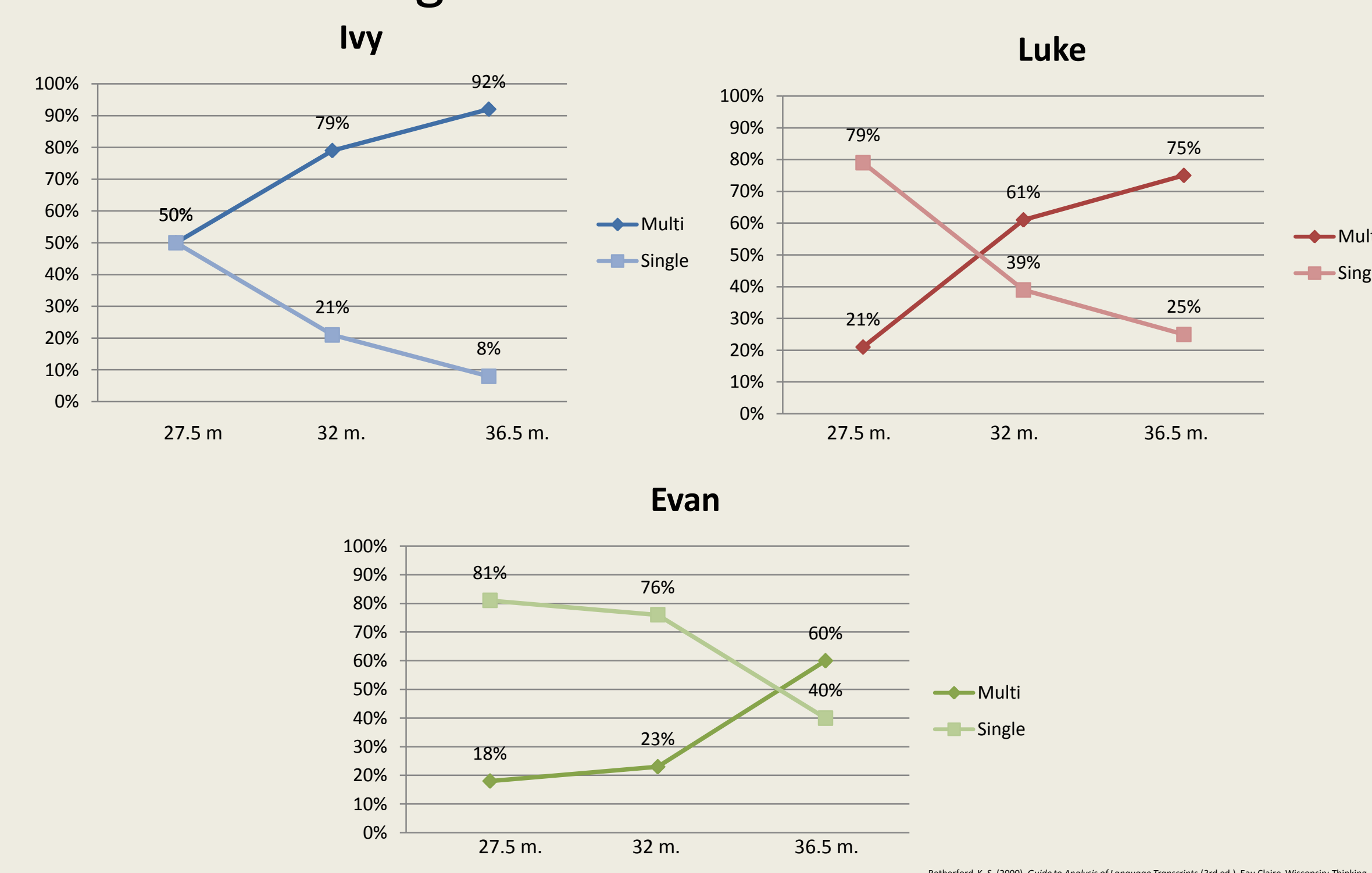
Developmental data is limited and contingent on contextual variables such as people and toys in the environment.

- Ivy:** consistent use of pragmatic acts
- Luke:** consistent use of pragmatic acts with an increase in initiations
- Evan:** expanded use of a greater variety of pragmatic acts

## Methods

- Pre-tested at 26 months
- Post-tested at 36 months
  - The Rossetti Infant-Toddler Language Scale*
  - MacArthur-Bates Communicative Inventories*
- Language samples collected at 27.5, 29, 32, 33, 35, 36.5 months of age
  - Semantics
    - TTR and semantic roles
  - Syntax
    - Mean Length of Utterance
  - Pragmatics
    - Primitive and Conversational Acts

## Percent of Semantically Coded Utterances Single-term vs. Multi-term



## Conclusions

- Although delayed compared to Ivy and Luke, Evan's semantic and syntactic development increased at a similar rate.
- Ivy and Luke explored a variety of pragmatic speech acts early on, while Evan increased his variety of pragmatic acts with age.