

## **Possible and Probable Errors in Child Language**

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This talk proposes a novel account of children's "Blind Alley Developments" (BADs), drawing on the complementary strengths of the Tolerance Principle and Natural Morphology. Particular attention is given to morphological "weak BADs," which occur when children overextend and wrongly apply a pattern present in their input. I show that the Tolerance Principle, as a vocabulary-driven, learning-theoretic measure, can explain both how certain weak BADs reach temporary productivity in the child's grammar and how children proceed to escape them and progress towards an adult-like grammar. At the same time, the preferences and preference conflicts of Natural Morphology provide constraints on the types of BADs we expect to observe. In combination, these approaches provide a unique vantage point into what errors are possible, and which are likely, throughout the course of child language acquisition.