

# **Repetition of child utterances as contingent parental input: a longitudinal study of dyadic interaction with children aged 1-3 years**

**Stina Andersson**

Stockholm University

The present study investigates repetition of child utterances relating to both concurrent and longitudinal child language measures in 20 Swedish children video recorded five times between 1;0 to 3;0 y o a. The aim of the study is twofold: i) to investigate parental repetitions within and across parent-child dyads and ages; and, ii) to relate developmental trajectories of repetitive parental behavior to child scores on SCDI (Berglund & Eriksson, 2000). Repetitions constitute one aspect of contingent parental behavior, defined as semantic and temporal responses to a child's utterances or vocalizations (Conica et al., 2020). These responses are argued to encourage a child's communicative attempts as the parent either corrects or expands the child's utterance (Rowe & Snow, 2020). Much remains unexplored about changes in amount and character of repetitions, and how they affect language skills over time. Though repetitions of child utterances increase during the child's first and second year (Masur & Rodemaker, 1999; Che et al., 2018), they have also been found to decrease as the child's language develops (Rondal, 1980). In Casla et al. (2022), repetitions at 1;9 were positively correlated to concurrent child vocabulary (measured by CDI), but Conica et al. (2020) found a negative concurrent correlation at 2;0 to child vocabulary diversity and MLU in interaction, and no correlation to any concurrent CDI measures. Positive longitudinal relations to later child MLU and vocabulary size has been identified (Che et al., 2018; Casla et al., 2022). By examining repetitions at five time points spanning over the preverbal stage up to the use of complex sentences, this study addresses the developmental aspects of parental contingency and whether repetitions decrease or change form as the child's language improves. The results will be related to parental impact on, and adaptation to, child language development over time.