

Vocabulary learning through subtitled video viewing as mediated by language aptitude:

The case of EFL beginner learners at primary school Mª del Mar Suárez

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Dual Coding Theory Paivio, 1986, 2007

- Verbal and non-verbal systems
- Interaction yet independent
- Activation \rightarrow stimulation
- Greater depth of processing and better recall

Cognitive Load Theory Chandler & Sweller, 1991; Sweller, 1994

- Brain's **limited cognitive capacity**, should not be overloaded
- Multimodality may increase cognitive load (CL)
- Subtitles as a tool to reduce CL in language acquisition settings

Cognitive Theory of Multimedia Learning Mayer, 2002, 2009

 "Students learn more deeply from a multimedia explanation than from a verbal explanation" (2002: 62)

Bimodal input (text & sound)Better learning

Holobow et al., 1984; Bird & Williams, 2002; Granena et al., 2015

Multimodal input (text & video)

• Positive for SLA

Price, 1983; Baltova, 1999; Markham et al., 2001; Danan, 2004

• Listening comprehension and vocabulary acquisition

Garza, 1991; Vanderplank, 2010, 2016; Rodgers, 2013; Montero Perez et al., 2013, 2014; Suárez & Gesa, 2019

Learners approach the task according to their **abilities** (Dörnyei, 2005; Tight, 2010)

Visual vs. Auditory learners

Subtitled TV series

- L1 / L2 text + L2 sound + video
- Verbal and non-verbal information
- Real language input, authentic materials
- Fun activity, wide range of multimedia materials available





- Best procedure for class use?
 - Good selection of videos and adequate captions / subtitles
 - Adapted to learners' proficiency level
 - Guided viewing

Vanderplank, 2010; Webb, 2015

Needed to foster FL learning



Subtitles in L1 (standard)

- Recommended for **low levels**
- Improve auditory comprehension
- Enhance automatic reading
- Help to relate form & meaning

Danan, 2004

Plass & Jones, 2005

Peters et al., 2016

Kuppens, 2010

Subtitles in L2 (bimodal subtitles)

- Beneficial effects
- Oral and written association
- Develop segmentation abilities

Frumuselu et al., 2015

Borrás & Lafayette, 1994

Charles & Trenkic, 2015

• Most **vocabulary research** conducted so far:

Adult university learners Sydorenko, 2010; Etemadi, 2012

One-off studies Yuksel & Tanriverdi, 2009; Montero Perez et al., 2018

Few exceptions Zarei, 2009; Rodgers, 2013; Frumuselu, 2015

Combination of audio and on-screen text (standard, reversed, bimodal...) Stewart & Pertusa, 2004; Lavaur & Bairstow, 2011; Peters et al., 2016

• Scarce research:

- Non-university learners (e.g. children or teenagers)
- Sustained exposure to multimodal input
- Classroom-based
- Video viewing vs. formal language instruction
- Connecting vocabulary learning from video viewing to IDs

- Aptitude is **multicomponential** (MLAT, MLAT-E, MLAT-EC/ES, LLAMA, Hi-Lab...).
- Little research on how each subtest (i.e. aptitude component tapped by the test) influences language learning rate.

Phonemic coding ability • the ability to identify and memorize new sounds or strings of sounds Grammatical sensitivity • the ability to understand how words function grammatically in sentences Inductive language learning ability • the ability to infer grammatical rules from language samples Rote learning ability for FL materials • the ability to learn a large number of semantic-symbol and/or sound-symbol associations in a short period of time

Carroll's (1981) aptitude components

Part	MLAT-EC (Grades 3-7)	Construct
1	Hidden Words	Vocabulary learning Sound-symbol association
2	Words in Sentences	Grammatical sensitivity
3	Rhyming Words	Hearing and distinguishing speech sounds
4	Number Learning	Vocabulary learning Rote learning memory Auditory comprehension

- Good general L2 proficiency predictor, but low predictive validity for vocabulary and L2 writing Li, 2016 with some exceptions.
- Regarding **lexical variety** in writing, using HUNLAT or MLAT-EC/ES: inconsistent results. Kormos & Trebits, 2012; Rosa & Muñoz, 2013; Muñoz, 2014; Suárez, 2014
- Moderate significant correlations with **receptive and productive vocabulary** (5-9 years old, Greek learner's aptitude battery). Alexiou, 2009
- Positive significant correlations with **vocabulary recall** and **recognition**, using MLAT Dahlen & Caldwell-Harris, 2013 and with L2 vocab-learning related skills besides L2 vocabulary measure. Sparks, Patton & Luebbers, 2019
- Aptitude relevant for **word meaning learning** in captioned video viewing at (upper-)intermediate level (LLAMA). Suárez & Gesa, 2019

Research Questions

In grade 6 EFL learners:

- does extended exposure to L1 subtitled TV series lead to significant gains in vocabulary learning, as compared to receiving formal language instruction?
- 2) to what extent is **language aptitude** linked to any gains in vocabulary learning from viewing L1 subtitled TV series?

Participants

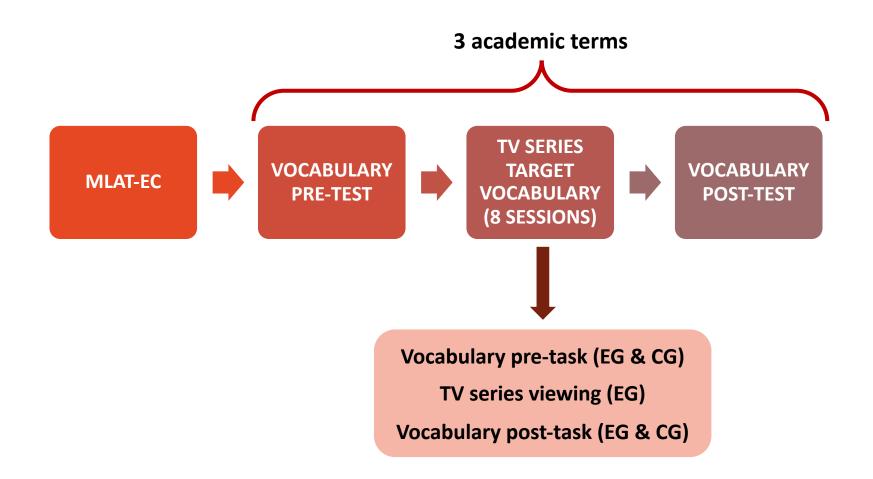
Experimental Group	Control Group			
(EG)	(CG)			
n=22	<i>n</i> =18			

Grade 6 Catalan / Spanish EFL learners

- Last year of primary school
- A1-A2 proficiency level
- 900 h formal instruction
- 11-12 years old
- 18 boys / 22 girls
- Semi-private school in Catalonia



Procedure



- The Suite Life of Zack and Cody (16 episodes) (Terms 1 and 2) + Wizards of Waverly Place (8 episodes) (Term 3)
- English audio and Spanish subtitles (vocabulary size: 1,500 words- Webb & Rodgers, 2009)
- 8 episodes x 3 terms (21 min. 30 sec. each) → 8h 36 min. of multimodal input exposure
- 5 target words / episode → 40 target words per term →120 target words in total



TESTS

VOCABULARY PRE- & POST-TEST

40 TWs Beginning / end of the term Form and meaning recall 1. A continuación escucharás veinte palabras. Escríbelas en inglés y tradúcelas al castellano o catalán. Si de alguna palabra conoces más de un significado, escríbelo. Escucharás cada palabra un total de dos veces.

Palabras

	Inglés	Castellano - Catalán
1		
2		
3		
4		
5		

TASKS

VOCABULARY PRE-TASK

Pre-teaching of TWs Focus-on-formS approach Beginning of each session

"Footloser"													
l. Find the words that match the definitions. The number of letters that each word has is given next to its definition.													
Definitions	L C E A S D V P W F R V	T H Q Z Z Z G CHM T O	С	QKOINRTSDN	H K W T T K R T J	W Q E K P V	P S I C U G	-	F G Z K G A C V T	I O C D	E H R S R I A R Q H A H	_	
A) Part of the body that connects the foot to the leg (5 letters) A													
B) A competition where people try to win something (7 letters) C								C T					
-,							н						
E) To have to return money that you borrowed (3 letters)							0						

VOCABULARY POST-TASK

5 TWs

Form recall and meaning recognition End of each session

"Footloser"						
 Escucharás cinco palabras en inglés. Cada palabra se va a repetir dos veces. Escribe cada palabra en los espacios en blanco (1, 2, 3) y di qué significan (opción a, b, c). Si no sabes qué quiere decir alguna palabra, elige la opción (f) 'No lo sé'. 						
1)	4)					
a) Intacto	a) Retener					
b) Jurado	b) Acontecimiento					
c) Tio	c) Concurso					
d) Tobillo	d) Protestar					
e) Codo	e) Talento					
f) No lo sé	f) No lo sé					
2)	5)					
a) Caja	a) Hacer daño					
b) Hambriento	b) Corazón					
c) Sediento	c) Criticar					
d) Primeramente	d) Masaje					
e) Magia	e) Aire					
f) No lo sé	f) No lo sé					
3)						
a) Deber						
b) Obligar						
c) Reír						
d) Extraño						
e) Arco						
f) No lo sé						

MLAT-EC Part 1: Hidden Words

15. bakka A és dolça B part de la cara **C fa llet** D amb arrugues

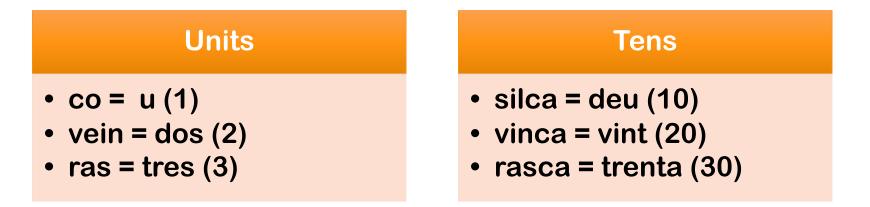
MLAT-EC Part 2: Words in Sentences

6. Em vaig tallar el DIT amb un ganivet. El meu germà s'oblidà les **claus** a casa.

MLAT-EC Part 3: Finding Rhymes

45. FLABIOL A) pèsol **B) Oriol** C) flascó D) avió

MLAT-EC Part 4: Number Learning





Relative gains formula applied Horst et al., 1998; Rodgers, 2013:

 $\frac{N \text{ of forms or meanings learned}}{N \text{ of items } - N \text{ of forms or meanings known}} \times 100$

- Learned → N of TW forms or meanings answered correctly on the post-test, but incorrectly on the pre-test.
- **Known** \rightarrow *N* of TW forms or meanings answered correctly on both the pre- and the post-test.
- Number of items → N of TW forms or meanings on which participants were tested (N=40 x 3 academic terms).

Scoring -Vocabulary gains

Analyses

• RQ1

Generalized Linear Mixed Models (GLMMs) (EGs and CGs -N=40-)

- Targets: Relative gains for form
 Relative gains for meaning
- Fixed effects: Condition (EG vs. CG) Time (T1, T2, T3)
- RQ2

Generalized Linear Mixed Models (GLMMs) (only EG -n=22-)

- Targets: Relative gains for form
 Relative gains for meaning
- Fixed effects: MLAT-EC parts and total score Time (T1, T2, T3)

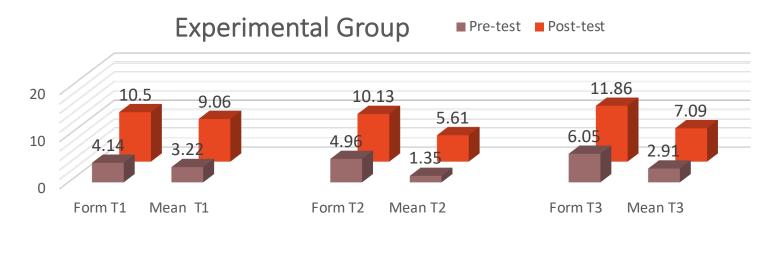
Research Questions

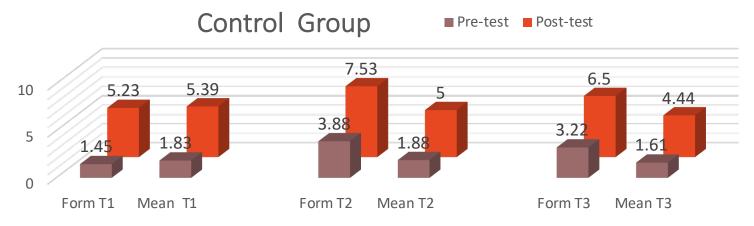
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Results - RQ1

Pre-/ post-tests T1-T2-T3 for Form and Meaning: raw descriptives





Paired samples *t*-tests and Wilcoxon signed-rank tests were all significant pre/post p = .000 or .001

Results RQ1

Form

Variable	Time	Experimental Group	Control Group
RELATIVE GAINS (in %)	T1	M=20.82 (10.75)	M=18.39 (10.42)
	T2	M=18.08 (10.49)	M=13.07 (7.30)
	Т3	M=20.19 (11.43)	<i>M</i> =12.28 (11.59)

* SD in brackets

Meaning

Variable	Time	Experimental Group	Control Group
	T1	M=10.33 (8.35)	M=10.80 (10.62)
RELATIVE GAINS	T2	M=11.30 (6.22)	M=9.48 (9.35)
(in %)	Т3	M=11.70 (7.05)	M=8.47 (5.95)

* SD in brackets

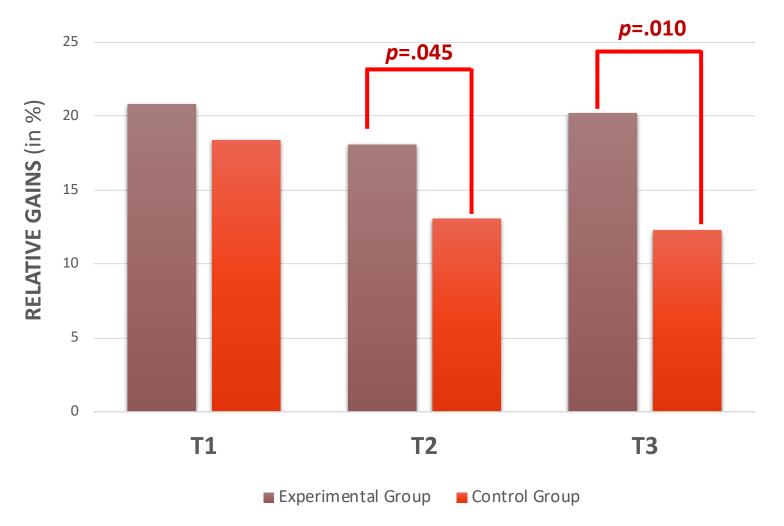
Results RQ1

TW FORM

- Significant main effect for condition
 F(1, 114)=5.113, p=.026
- Significant main effect for time F(2, 114)=3.978, p=.021
- No significant interaction time*condition F(2, 114)=.975, p=.380
- Simple contrasts between EG and CG:
 - T1 $\rightarrow \beta$ =3.859, p=.228
 - T2 → β=6.284, p=.045
 - T3 → β=7.666, p=.010

Results - RQ1

TW form



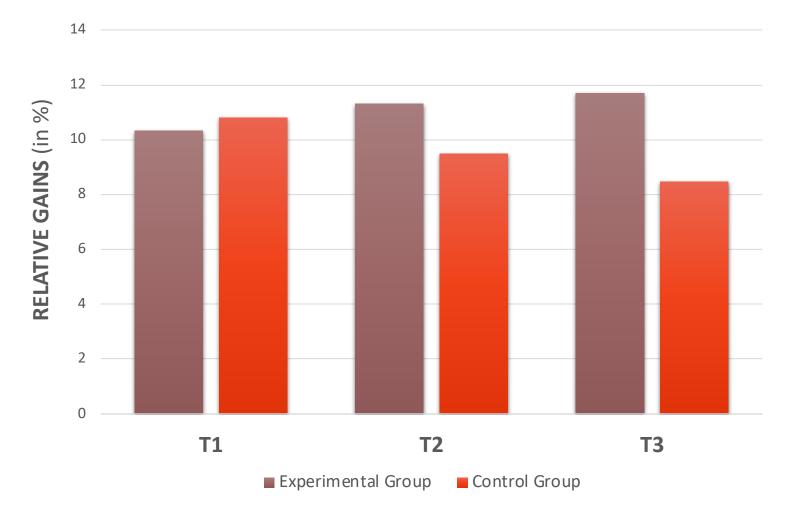
Results RQ1

TW MEANING

- No significant main effect for condition F(1, 114)=.931, p=.337
- No significant main effect for time F(2, 114)=.202, p=.817
- No significant interaction time*condition F(2, 114)=.938, p=.394
- Simple contrasts between EG and CG:
 - T1 \rightarrow β =.319, p=.900
 - T2 $\rightarrow \beta$ =2.631, p=.242
 - T3 $\rightarrow \beta$ =2.483, p=.205

Results - RQ1

TW meaning



Research Questions

In grade 6 EFL learners:

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Results - RQ2

MLAT-EC

Aptitude MLAT-EC	Experimental Group	Control Group	All		
Part 1: Hidden Words (in %)	<i>M</i> =77.88 (15.65)	<i>M</i> =75.56 (17.90)	M=76.83 (16.52)		
Part 2: Words in Sentences (in %)	M=62.12 (23.89)	M=75 (22.02)	M=67.92 (26.38)		
Part 3: Finding Rhymes (in %)	<i>M</i> =75.96 (21.13)	M=83.92 (9.88)	M=79.54 (17.30)		
Part 4: Number Learning (in %)	M=75.63 (26.92)	M=73.33 (25.78)	M=74.60 (26.11)		
TOTAL (in %)	M=72.98 (17.94)	<i>M</i> =77.55 (12.82)	<i>M</i> =75.04 (15.82)		

* SD in brackets

No significant differences from Mann-Whitney U tests EG vs CG.

Results RQ2

TW FORM & APTITUDE

- Significant main effect for Part 1 Hidden Words F(1, 60)=4.583, p=.036
- Significant main effect for Part 2 Words in Sentences F(1, 60)=7.828, p=.007
- Significant main effect for Part 4 Number Learning F(1, 60)=5.631, p=.021
- Significant main effect for MLAT-EC Total F(1,60)=7.051, p=.010
- No significant interaction MLAT-EC Parts/Total
 * Time

TW MEANING & APTITUDE

Results RQ2

- Significant main effect for Part 1 Hidden Words F(1, 60)=4.020, p=.049
- No significant interaction MLAT-EC Parts/Total * Time

Discussion: Vocabulary

- Dual Coding Theory and Cognitive Theory of Multimedia Learning hold true for vocabulary acquisition:
 - Experimental Group \rightarrow verbal and non-verbal information
 - Control group → verbal information

Paivio, 1986, 2007; Mayer, 2009

 Even if multimodality may have increased cognitive load, that was not detrimental for word form learning (EG > CG).

Brünken et al., 2002

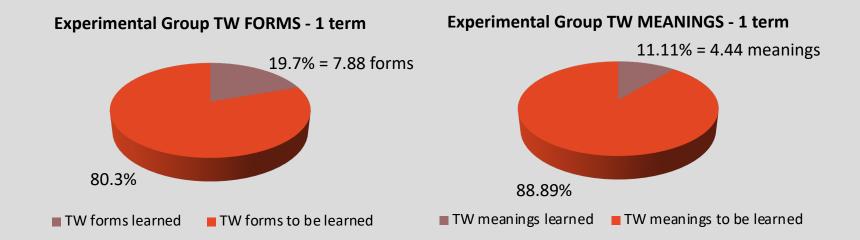
- Accumulation of input and familiarity with the dynamics of the intervention diminished cognitive load and probabilities of cognitive overload.
- Learners benefitted from different modalities of input:
 - Multimedia learning (EG) \rightarrow text + sound + image
 - Regular instruction (CG) \rightarrow text + sound

Discussion: Vocabulary

- TV viewing **benefits also for younger beginner learners**, even if gains are limited. Rice et al. 1990; Koolstra & Beentjes, 1999; Kuppens, 2010
- Sustained exposure to audiovisual material seems to benefit vocabulary learning.
 - Higher gains towards the end of the academic year
 - Training effects; familiarity with tests and tasks at the end of the intervention
 - Use of certain learning strategies to learn the TW forms
 - Accumulation of type of input (2h 50 min. vs. 8h 30 min.)
- L1 subtitles enhanced form rather than meaning learning \rightarrow initial stage of learning
- More exposure and vocab recycling needed to acquire the form-meaning link. d'Ydewalle & Van de Poel, 1999; Danan, 2004; Zarei & Rashvand, 2011

Discussion: Vocabulary

Increase was not significant in size:



 Importance of focused and active learning tasks to introduce the target vocabulary as well as opportunities for consolidating it after the viewing.

Discussion: Language aptitude

- Aptitude relevant for form learning $\rightarrow \neq$ (upper-)intermediate level learners
- Aptitude was **not** significant for **meaning** learning (except Part 1) → marginal significance
- Test parts related to vocab learning have an influence (except Part 3 form)→ type of input exposure
- Learners may have approached the learning task in a rather explicit way limiting themselves to memorization of forms: could not probably draw on deeper learning mechanisms and strategies
- Form vs meaning: there was more cognitive / attentional involvement for form → language aptitude came into play
- Meaning learning task too challenging to handle: **cognitive overload**

Pedagogical implications

- In EFL learners from different proficiencies, authentic videos can promote **vocabulary learning**.
- Videos need to be accompanied by a set of focused and active learning **tasks** (unguided viewing).
- Need to **adapt the materials** to learners' proficiency level and aptitude profile (ATI).
- **Six principles** so as to use videos in the EFL classroom Webb, 2015
 - 1) Language learning benefits must be clear to everyone involved
 - 2) Learners should be at the appropriate level
 - 3) Listening comprehension needs to be supported
 - 4) Precise comprehension should be a goal, not a requirement
 - 5) Classroom-based viewing as a guide for out-ofclass viewing
 - 6) L2 video viewing should be fostered as much as possible

Further research

- Other language skills:
 - Syntax and grammar, segmentation abilities, pronunciation, etc.
- Within-group **variability** (e.g. role of vocabulary size)
- Effects of other IDs (e.g. working memory)
- Delayed testing to analyse retention effects Gesa & Miralpeix, 2018
- Other **types of captioning** (e.g. bimodal subtitling, keyword captioning)
- Focused vs. non-focused learning

Thank you! Tack!

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Theoretical Background

 Greater gains for higher aptitude (LLAMA B - vocabulary learning) in a lexical test of formulaic sequences.

Serrano & Llanes, 2012

• Positive significant correlations LLAMA F with lexical diversity, but not with lexical appropriateness.

Saito, 2017

• Positive significant correlations in highly advanced adult L2 learners in **lexis** and **collocations scores**.

Granena & Long, 2013

 Negative correlations: word-monitoring task tapping automatic use of L2 knowledge (except LLAMA D).

Granena, 2012

Instruments - TV series

Francisco hand	Tok	ens	Тур	bes	Word f	amilies	Cumulative coverage
Frequency band	Raw	%	Raw	%	Raw	%	(in %)
1k	18,259	89.96	1,417	55.22	885	49.33	89.96
2k	790	3.89	407	15.86	351	19.57	93.85
3k	209	1.03	139	5.42	127	7.08	94.88
4k	189	0.93	132	5.14	115	6.41	95.81
5k	173	0.85	95	3.70	85	4.74	96.66
6k	86	0.42	55	2.14	52	2.90	97.08
7k	40	0.20	26	1.01	25	1.39	97.28
8k	40	0.20	26	1.01	24	1.34	97.48
9k	59	0.29	19	0.74	19	1.06	97.77
10k	25	0.12	17	0.66	17	0.95	97.89
11-25k	122	0.57	96	3.75	94	5.25	98.46
Off-list	215	1.06	119	4.64	???		99.52
Total	20,297	100	2,566	100	≈1,794	???	≈ 100

TERM 1 - The Suite Life of Zack and Cody (8 episodes)

Instruments - TV series

Francisco hand	Tok	ens	Тур	bes	Word f	amilies	Cumulative coverage
Frequency band	Raw	%	Raw	%	Raw	%	(in %)
1k	19,760	89.90	1,575	55.38	920	49.28	89.90
2k	830	3.78	456	16.03	381	20.41	93.68
3k	222	1.01	142	4.99	126	6.75	94.69
4k	222	1.01	135	4.75	117	6.27	95.70
5k	194	0.88	108	3.80	97	5.20	96.58
6k	100	0.45	51	1.79	49	2.62	97.03
7k	51	0.23	31	1.09	30	1.61	97.26
8k	29	0.13	22	0.77	22	1.18	97.39
9k	29	0.13	23	0.81	23	1.23	97.52
10k	25	0.11	19	0.67	18	0.96	97.63
11-25k	114	0.52	88	3.11	84	4.49	98.15
Off-list	242	1.10	174	6.12	???		99.25
Total	21,979	100	2,844	100	≈1,867	???	≈ 100

TERM 2 - The Suite Life of Zack and Cody (8 episodes)

Instruments - TV series

Frequency band	Tok	Tokens		pes	Word f	amilies	Cumulative coverage
Frequency band	Raw	%	Raw	%	Raw	%	(in %)
1k	21,684	90.80	1,460	58.42	859	52.35	90.80
2k	978	4.10	432	17.29	340	20.72	94.90
3k	167	0.70	110	4.40	97	5.91	95.60
4k	176	0.74	103	4.12	91	5.55	96.34
5k	148	0.62	77	3.08	64	3.90	96.96
6k	109	0.46	55	2.20	52	3.17	97.42
7k	54	0.23	29	1.16	28	1.71	97.65
8k	28	0.12	19	0.76	17	1.04	97.77
9k	43	0.18	15	0.60	15	0.91	97.95
10k	42	0.18	20	0.80	18	1.10	98.13
11-25k	110	0.46	63	2.52	60	3.63	98.59
Off-list	220	0.92	108	4.32	???		99.51
Total	23,882	100	2,499	100	≈1,641	???	≈ 100

TERM 3 - Wizards of Waverly Place (8 episodes)

TW properties

Word class	N
Adjectives	13
Adverbs	1
Nouns	77
Prepositions	1
Verbs	28
TOTAL	120

Cognateness	N
Cognates	14
Non-cognates	106
TOTAL	120

Word frequency (according to COCA)	N
1k	20
2k	28
3k	10
4k	13
5k	14
6k	6
7k	3
9k	4
10k	4
+10k	8
Off-list	10
TOTAL	120

Word frequency (N repetitions episodes)	N
2	16
3	20
4	18
5	19
6	8
7	2
8	2
9	9
10	3
11	6
12	4
14	2
15	1
16	2
17	1
18	2
19	1
+20	4
TOTAL	120

TW properties

Concreteness (mean)	N
1-2	7
2.01-3	23
3.01-4	27
4.01-5	62
Not on the list	1
TOTAL	120

Word frequency (according to SUBTLEX _{US} in %)	N
0-5	66
5.01-10	27
10.01-15	6
15.01-20	4
20.01-25	4
25.01-30	3
30.01-35	2
35.01-40	3
40.01-45	1
45.01-50	1
50.01-60	-
60.01-65	1
65.01-80	-
80.01-85	1
85.01-90	-
90.01-95	1
95.01-100	-
TOTAL	120

MLAT-EC & Form: Spearman correlations

	Experimental Group			Control Group			All		
MLAT-EC Part	T1	T2	Т3	T1	T2	Т3	T1	T2	Т3
Part 1: Hidden Words	.472*	.226	.450*	.770**	.142	.185	.639**	.210	.342*
Part 2: Words in Sentences	.512**	.478*	.508*	.388	.221	.158	.408**	.270	.316
Part 3: Finding Rhymes	.419*	.223	.444*	.448*	.453	.713**	.453**	.274	.445**
Part 4: Number Learning	.564**	.207	.557**	.395	.486*	.478	.531**	.343*	.581**
TOTAL	.614**	.365	.574**	.648**	.384	.415	.650**	.374*	.527**

**Correlation is significant at the 0.01 level (2-tailed). *Correlation is significant at the 0.05 level (2-tailed).

MLAT-EC & Meaning: Spearman correlations

MLAT-EC Part	Experimental Group			Control Group			All		
	T1	T2	Т3	T1	T2	Т3	T1	Т2	Т3
Part 1: Hidden Words	.315	.245	.396	.533**	.260	.250	.464**	.278	.362
Part 2: Words in Sentences	.355	.468*	.300	.475**	.261	.388	.371**	.270	.184
Part 3: Finding Rhymes	.366*	.322	.256	.382	.502*	.162	.418**	.332*	.160
Part 4: Number Learning	.020*	.256	.380	.366	.280	.285	.419**	.270	.359*
TOTAL	.514**	.438*	.360	.572**	.415	.339	.522**	.379*	.319

**Correlation is significant at the 0.01 level (2-tailed). *Correlation is significant at the 0.05 level (2-tailed).

MLAT-EC & Form: Spearman correlations

	Experimental Group	Control Group	All
MLAT-EC Part	Average T1+T2+T3	Average T1+T2+T3	Average T1+T2+T3
Part 1: Hidden Words	.335	.429	.386*
Part 2: Words in Sentences	.517*	.181	.256
Part 3: Finding Rhymes	.447	.380	.345
Part 4: Number Learning	.596**	.246	.470*
TOTAL	.579*	.313	.467*

**Correlation is significant at the 0.01 level (2-tailed). *Correlation is significant at the 0.05 level (2-tailed).

MLAT-EC & Meaning: Spearman correlations

MLAT-EC Part	Experimental Group	Control Group	All
	Average T1+T2+T3	Average T1+T2+T3	Average T1+T2+T3
Part 1: Hidden Words	.347	.205	.293
Part 2: Words in Sentences	.280	023	.077
Part 3: Finding Rhymes	.283	.206	.213
Part 4: Number Learning	.401	.187	.293
TOTAL	.419	.152	.252

**Correlation is significant at the 0.01 level (2-tailed).

*Correlation is significant at the 0.05 level (2-tailed).

Limitations

- **Post-task effect**: drawing learners' attention to the TWs and affecting their processing
- No control groups watching videos without subtitles
- Some TW properties could not be totally controlled for
- **Classroom environment** (e.g. different teachers, compulsory attendance, no online measuring, etc.)

However... the study

- Puts theoretical principles to the test (DCT, CTML and CLT)
- Includes 'large quantities' of multimodal input (longitudinal study)
- Connects vocabulary learning from video viewing to IDs
- Uses a **pedagogical intervention** (specially-tailored materials)
- Non-adults EFL learners (under-researched population)
 - New data on: vocabulary learning and language aptitude
- **Positive** preliminary **results**:
 - 'Fun' experience, not detrimental to learning (CGs > EGs)
 - In-class deliberate learning from video viewing as the starting point for more out-of-class incidental vocabulary acquisition Webb, 2015