

Verb Classes or Voice morphology?
Evidence from monolingual and bilingual children's grammars

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Studies on monolingual first language acquisition of Voice and transitivity alternations have produced contradictory results across languages. In English, passives are a 'late' phenomenon in acquisition while in Sesotho an early one. In Greek, while productive use of passive structures is not common either in adult or child language, Voice morphology is productively used to mark transitivity alternations, such as anti-causatives, passives and reflexives. The question for language acquisition is whether the acquisition of Voice morphology can be examined independently from the acquisition of Verb classes. Verb classes dictate which verbs in the language would participate in transitivity alternations with or without a change from active to non-active voice morphology as well as specifying the gaps within verb classes. I will discuss the question regarding the priority of morphology or verb classes in the acquisition of Voice with evidence from Greek monolingual and bilingual development.