**Supplementary material S2 – explanation coding procedure surface overlap based on the adult language system**

In this section we give a detailed illustration of how we classified datapoints as *partial overlap*, *no overlap* or *complete overlap* based on Nicoladis (2006). In this study, Nicoladis tested for French-English children’s placement of adjectives. In French, adjectives can be in pre- and postnominal position. However, certain adjectives are typically prenominal (e.g., *le grand chat* – the big cat) and others are typically postnominal (e.g., *le chat noir* – the cat black). In English, on the other hand, adjectives are prenominal (e.g., the big/black cat). Nicoladis elicited adjective-noun strings in both French and English. She reported results separately for adjectives that were typically placed in prenominal and postnominal position in French. In other words, she reported on bilingual and monolingual children’s behaviour in four situations: the placement of adjectives that typically occur in prenominal position in French, both in French production data and in English production data, and the placement of adjectives that typically occur in postnominal position in French, again both in French production data and in English production data (see Tables 1 and 2).

**Table 1.** Situation of adjectives that typically occur in postnominal position in French

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | **French** |  | **English** | **Overlap situation French 🡨 English** | **Overlap situation French 🡪 English** |
| **Target** | Postnominal  *le chat noir* | 🡪 | \*Postnominal  *\*the cat black* | Partial overlap | No overlap |
|  |  |  |  |
| **Non-target** | Prenominal  *?le noir chat* | 🡨 | Prenominal  *the black cat* |

**Table 2.** Situation of adjectives that typically occur in prenominal position in French

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | **French** |  | **English** | **Overlap situation French 🡨 English** | **Overlap situation French 🡪 English** |
| **Target** | Prenominal  *le grand chat* | 🡨  🡪 | Prenominal  *the big cat* | Partial overlap | Complete overlap |
|  |  |  |  |
| **Non-target** | Postnominal  *?le chat grand* |  |  |

A datapoint was coded as a situation of *no overlap* when children’s languages allowed for only one option and these options differed between languages. In this situation, we predicted that, if cross-linguistic influence was present, it should result in a more frequent choice of the option from the non-target language in bilingual children in the language tested than their monolingual peers. In Nicoladis (2006), a situation of *no overlap* occurred in children’s placement of adjectives in English that were typically in postnominal position in French: in English, adjectives should always be in prenominal position, whereas in French, these adjectives should be in postnominal position (Table 1). We therefore predicted that cross-linguistic influence could result in a stronger use of postnominal adjectives in English by bilingual French-English children than by monolingual English children.

A datapoint was coded as a situation of *partial overlap* in two situations: (i) when the language tested allowed for two options and children’s other language allowed for only one of these options, and (ii) when both bilingual children’s languages allowed for the same two options, but differed in their preferences for one of these options. We predicted the preferred or only option in one language to reinforce the overlapping option in the other language in case of cross-linguistic influence. In Nicoladis (2006), this concerns the placement of prenominal and postnominal adjectives in French (see Table 1 and Table 2). Hence, we predicted cross-linguistic influence from English to French, reinforcing the correct placement of French prenominal adjectives in prenominal position and the incorrect placement of French postnominal adjectives in prenominal position.

Finally, a datapoint was coded as a situation of *complete overlap* if morphosyntactic properties were similar between children’s languages in the specific context tested. In these situations we predicted no cross-linguistic influence. With respect to Nicoladis (2006), this concerns the placement of adjectives in English that are typically prenominal in French (see Table 2). Both in English and in French, these adjectives should be placed in prenominal position. Therefore, we coded this situation as *complete overlap* from the perspective of English. Because English only allows for prenominal adjectives, we did not assume that French would further reinforce correct adjective placement (assuming monolingual children would already be performing at ceiling). As a consequence, no cross-linguistic influence was predicted.