

Examples of children overgeneralizing

overgeneralizing

A. Overgeneralizing morphemes:

1. Past tense verbs:

eated	ate	hitted	hit
maked	made	doed	did
finded	found	goed	went

2. Noun plurals

foots	feet
childs	children
mouses	mice

B. Overgeneralizing denominal verbs

A denominal verb is a verb that is made out of a noun. There are many denominal verbs, such as those below, but many nouns can not be made into verbs

- He *plastered* the ceiling.
- She *authored* the books.
- They *knotted* the rope.
- They *witnessed* the crime.
- He *summered* in Canada.

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How children overgeneralize this new trick of making denominal verbs:

- I'm crackering my soup
- I'm going to basket those apples
- She's ballerining
- That truck is cementing
- I'm souping
- Rocker me, mommy
- Make it bell

C. Overgeneralizing the causative rule

The causative rule takes an intransitive verb meaning "to do" something and converts it to a transitive verb meaning "to cause to do something"

- Ex: The butter melted → Sally melted the butter
- The ball bounced → Hiram bounced the ball
- The horse raced past the barn → The jockey raced the horse past the barn

Children overgeneralize the causative rule in the following sentences:

- Go me to the bathroom before you go to bed.
- The tiger will come and eat David and then he will be died.
- Don't giggle me!
- Yawny Baby—you can push her mouth open to drink her.

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