The picture-naming task in normal children
Towards a developmental model of word retrieval

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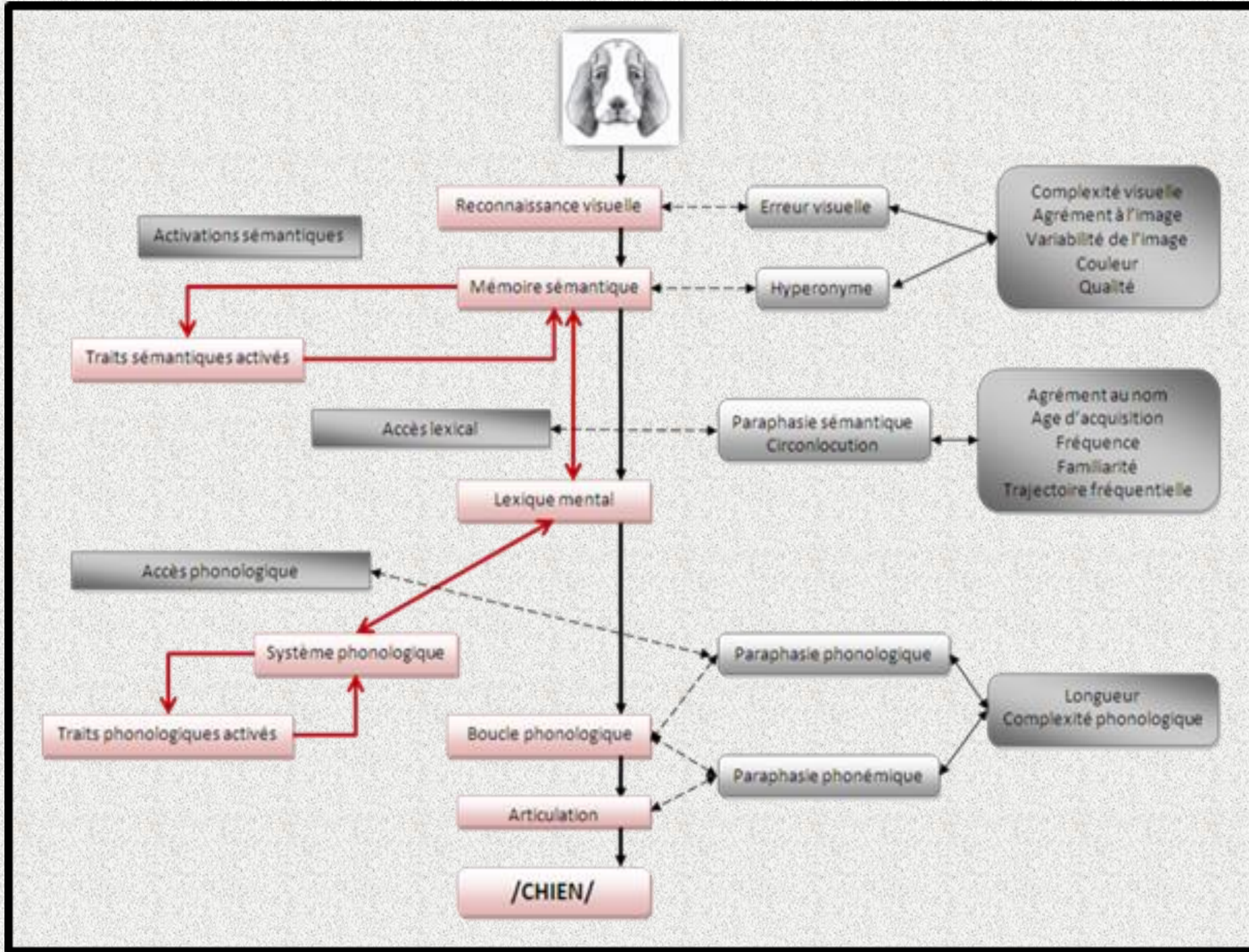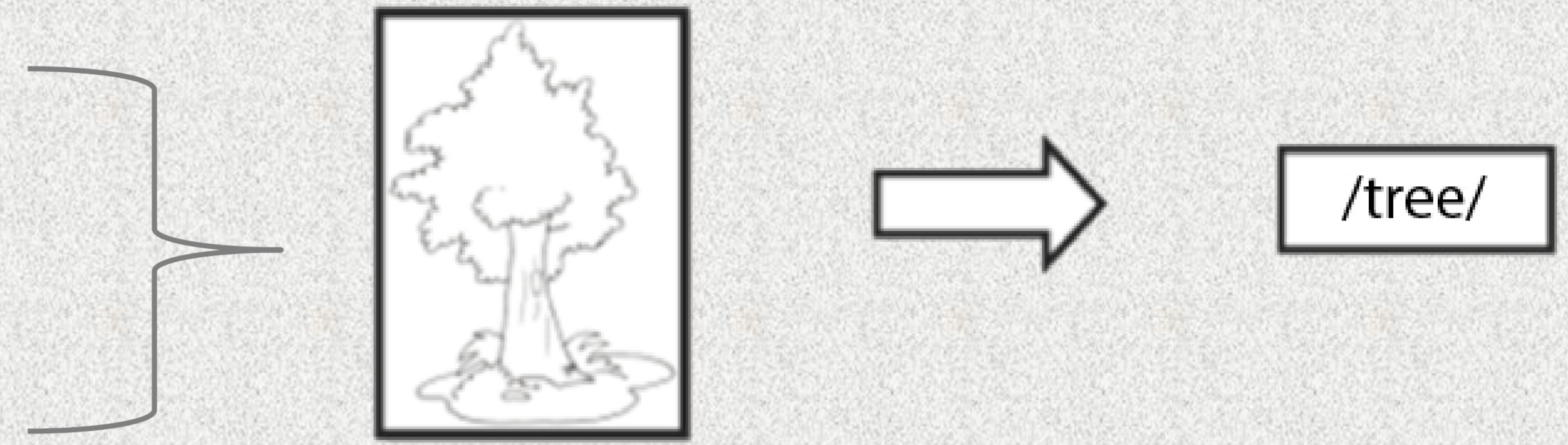** Full professor, Cognitive Sciences, UMONS

Theoretical Framework

Frequently used in both research and clinical practice, the picture-naming task is an experimental situation which allows characterizing the cognitive processes involved in the word retrieval and their time course.

Research Objectives

The aim of our study is to create a dynamical model of word retrieval centered on the child development. The model will consider both visual and psycholinguistic variables that influence this process as well as linguistic and pre-linguistic developments that characterize the child.

Purpose

Current adults' models are not adapted to correctly understand the word retrieval in children nor to define the origin of word-finding difficulties ⟹ children have their linguistic abilities in constant evolution, but this dynamical process is currently not considered.

Population

252 children ranging from 5 years old to 11 years old. Children are divided up in 10 age classes. They were recruited from schools in the French-speaking part of Belgium.

Methodology

- Creation of a new picture-naming task composed of 110 items. This battery, constructed from the Snodgrass and Vanderwart (1980) and Bonin (2003) items, contains updated and colored photographs.
- Creation of specific tasks that evaluate each cognitive process implied during the word retrieval.

Material

figures — repetition — recoding — categorization — naming
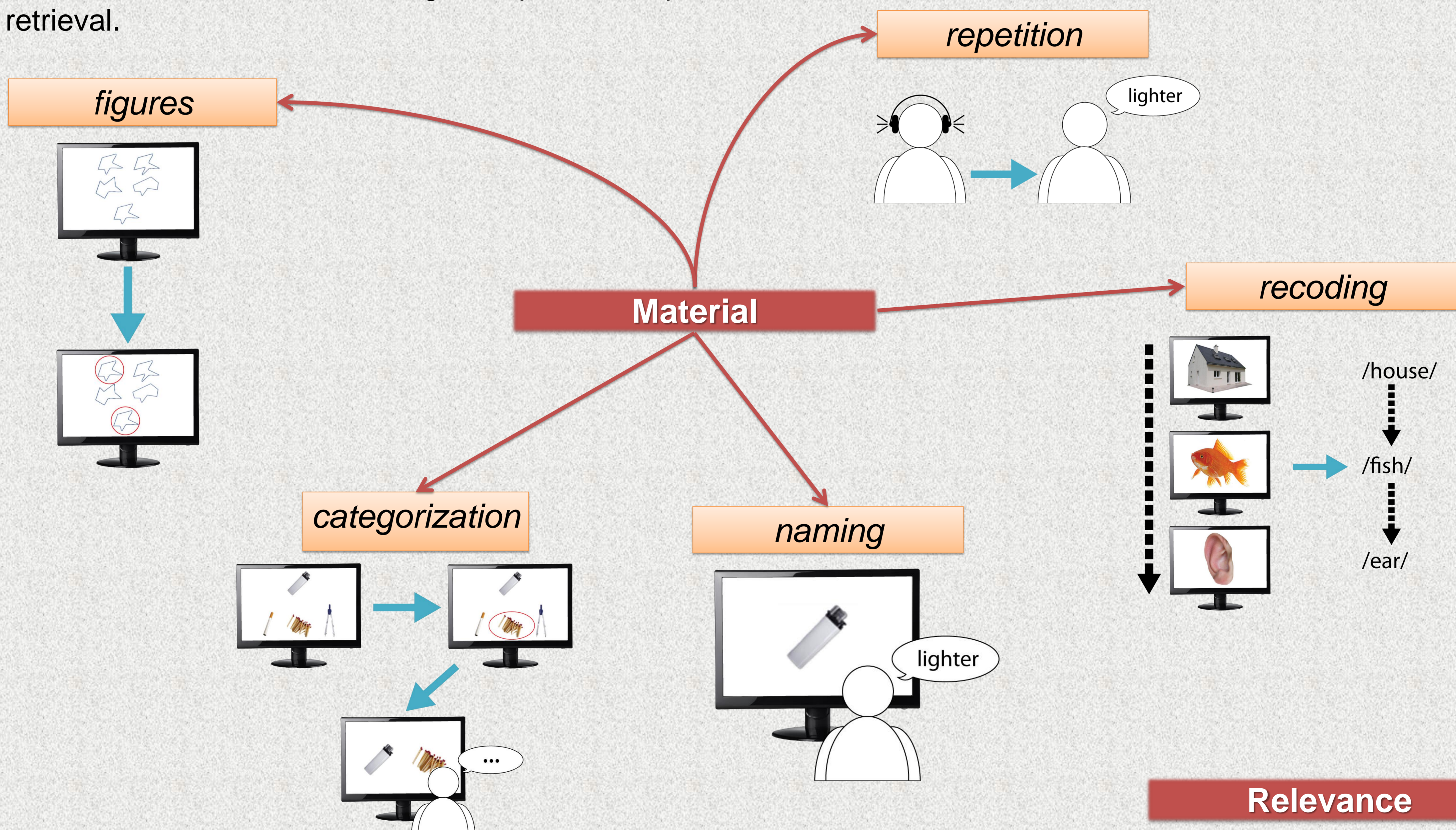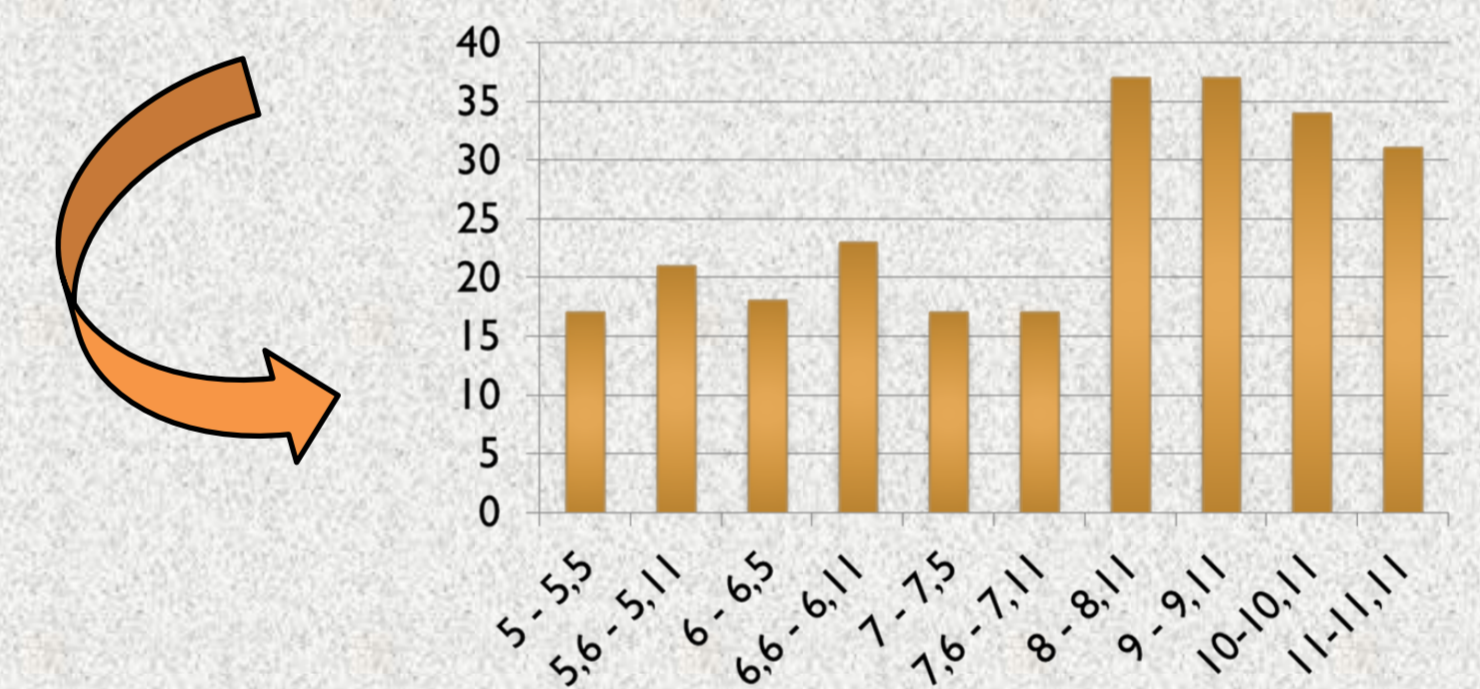
Relevance

- From a fundamental point of view, our study will make possible to lead to a model of word retrieval specifically adapted for children, currently nonexistent.
- From a clinical point of view, the creation of this model will allow to conceive more pertinent and updated diagnostic tests.

Results

Data are still collecting on the remaining sample. Final results are not yet known.