



extremely well on GS, correctly accepting GS 92% of the time, while UQS were correctly rejected only 30% of the time. Older children (8/9-year-olds) accepted GS only 72% of the time and rejected UQS 64% of the time. Adults accepted GS 79% of the time and rejected UQS 72% of the time. The results of the older children were adult-like (no significant difference from the adult results), while the results of the younger children were significantly different. We used R (R Core Team, 2016) and the lme4 package (Bates et al. 2015) to perform a generalised linear mixed-effects analysis, specifying a binomial family. We then tested the main effects by fitting versions of the full model from which a single effect was removed, and then compared the reduced model to the full model. The analysis revealed a main effect of age ( $\chi^2(4)=122.68, p < .001$ ) and a main effect of NP type ( $\chi^2(3)=233.8, p < .001$ ). Further, the analysis yielded a significant interaction between NP type and age ( $\chi^2(2)=105.47, p < .001$ ).

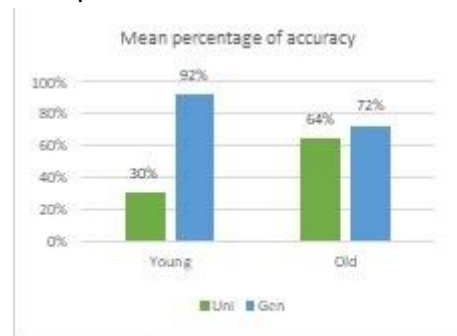


Fig 1. Results

DISCUSSION Concerning RQ1, the results of this study did not confirm that the accuracy of GS is higher than the accuracy of UQS: the observed difference in the older group of children was not significant. Regarding RQ2, we found an interaction between age and NP type. The pattern of responses to UQS might seem to lend support to the GaD hypothesis: even adults can tolerate exceptions to UQS, and, allegedly, interpret them as GS. The relatively low performance in the case of UQS in the older group, which amounted to an acceptance at a rate of 36% (i.e., an accuracy of 64%) is though similar to the adult behaviour and can be explained by alluding to other possible interpretations such as the subkind or loose/hyperbolic interpretation (see Lazaridou-Chatzigoga et al. 2019). Moreover, the not at-ceiling performance in the case of GS, and furthermore, the observed performance decline in GS in the older groups, is hardly interpretable from the GaD viewpoint. Seeing an exception to a GS made some older children and adults reject it. This result puts pressure not only on the GaD hypothesis, but also on the very idea that GS are characterized by their tolerance to exceptions. Also, it may be that being aware of an exception makes interpreters (liable to) treat a generic as a UQS, which would be a reversion of the GaD phenomenon.

CONCLUSIONS This paper presents novel data in the acquisition and interpretation of GS and UQS in Spanish that reveal that while the pattern of acquisition (generics first) complies with Leslie, Gelman, et al.'s studies, how we interpret UQS and GS may be a more complex issue than what is assumed in the literature.

#### SELECTED REFERENCES

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