



Figure 1: Nitwit Language vs. Blubber Language

- Two languages, Nitwit and Blubber, differ in how they describe swatches A–D (Figure 1, above). Nitwit uses the same word (*oddm*) to describe the two lighter swatches, and a different word (*shuh*) to describe the two darker swatches. Blubber, on the other hand, labels according to gradient, and calls A and C *blargh*, but B and D *glab*.

Based on our discussion and the 2004 study by Hespos and Spelke, which of the following would you expect?

- 6-month-old infants raised in Nitwit and Blubber households would have divergent behavior on any test of word-learning or swatch perception
 - Nitwit adults would lose the ability to tell A and B apart, just as Blubber adults would lose the ability to distinguish between C and D
 - Blubber infants would initially only be able to distinguish A/C from B/D, but would become able to discriminate all swatches with age
 - Nitwit infants would initially pay attention to differences among all swatches, before narrowing their attention to the difference in lightness between A/B and C/D
- Where should we expect to see the greatest differences between Nitwit speakers and Blubber speakers?
 - visual search tasks where the swatches are presented in the left visual field (LVF)
 - categorization tasks while the participant is asked to continuously repeat a string of syllables
 - memory tasks where the participant is told they will have to describe the swatches they saw to another person
 - similarity judgment tasks while the participant is asked to continuously repeat a string of syllables