Review Questions: Learning Biases

(1) Terms/concepts to know: statistical learning, non-statistical learning, algebraic learning, non-adjacent probability, learning bias

(2) What were the two tasks the adult learners had to accomplish in Peña et al. (2002)’s artificial language study? Does one necessarily precede the other?

(3) What evidence do we have that adults can unconsciously track the probability of non-adjacent items, not just the transitional probability between adjacent items?

(4) Were the adults in Peña et al (2002)’s study able to infer properties of words based on non-adjacent syllable probability? How do you know?

(5) Under what circumstances could adults in Peña et al. (2002) use algebraic computation? (For instance, did it matter how long or how short the training was?)

(6) What was the key structural difference in the stimuli used by Peña et al. (2002) in their experiments and the experiments done by Newport & Aslin (2004)? What was the point in choosing the particular stimuli Newport & Aslin chose?