

# Infants' Learning and Memory Development



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**Culture &  
Development**

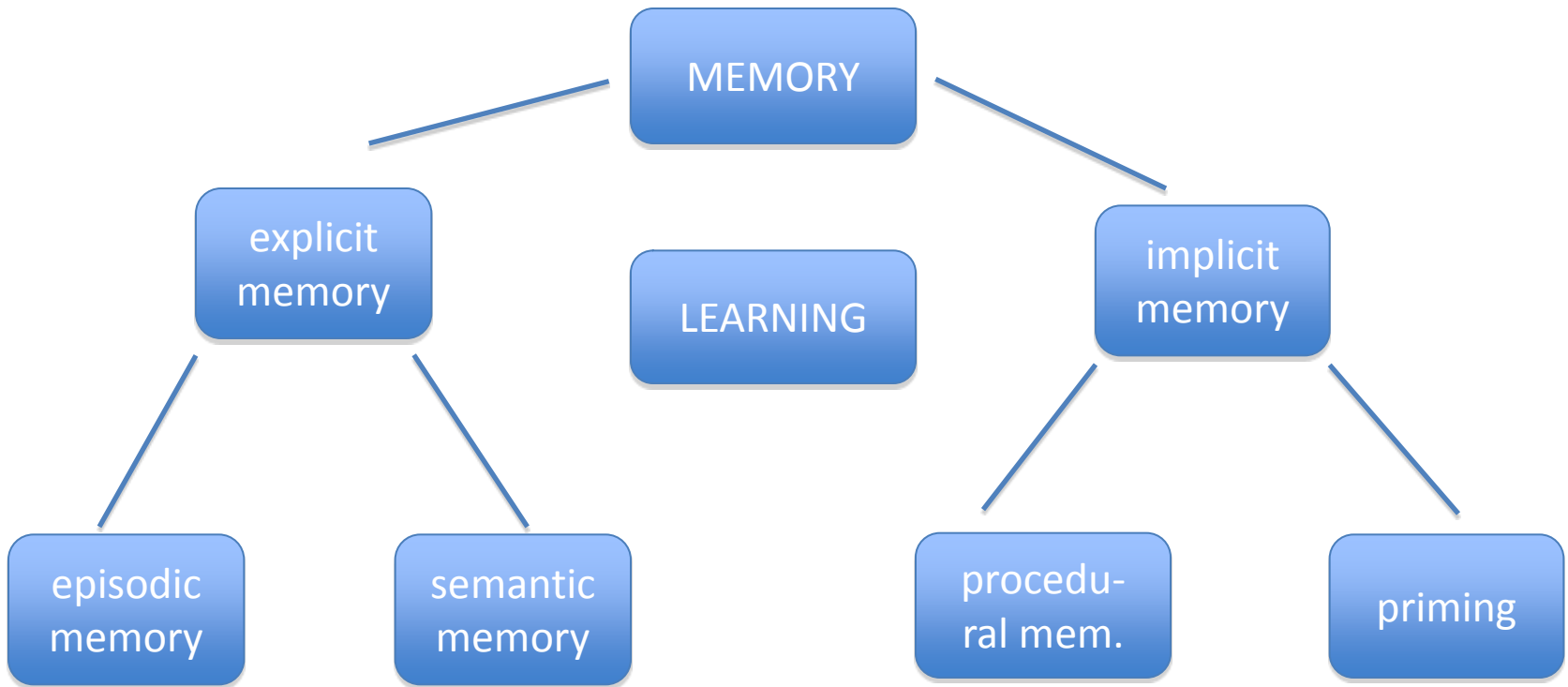
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funded by



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# Background

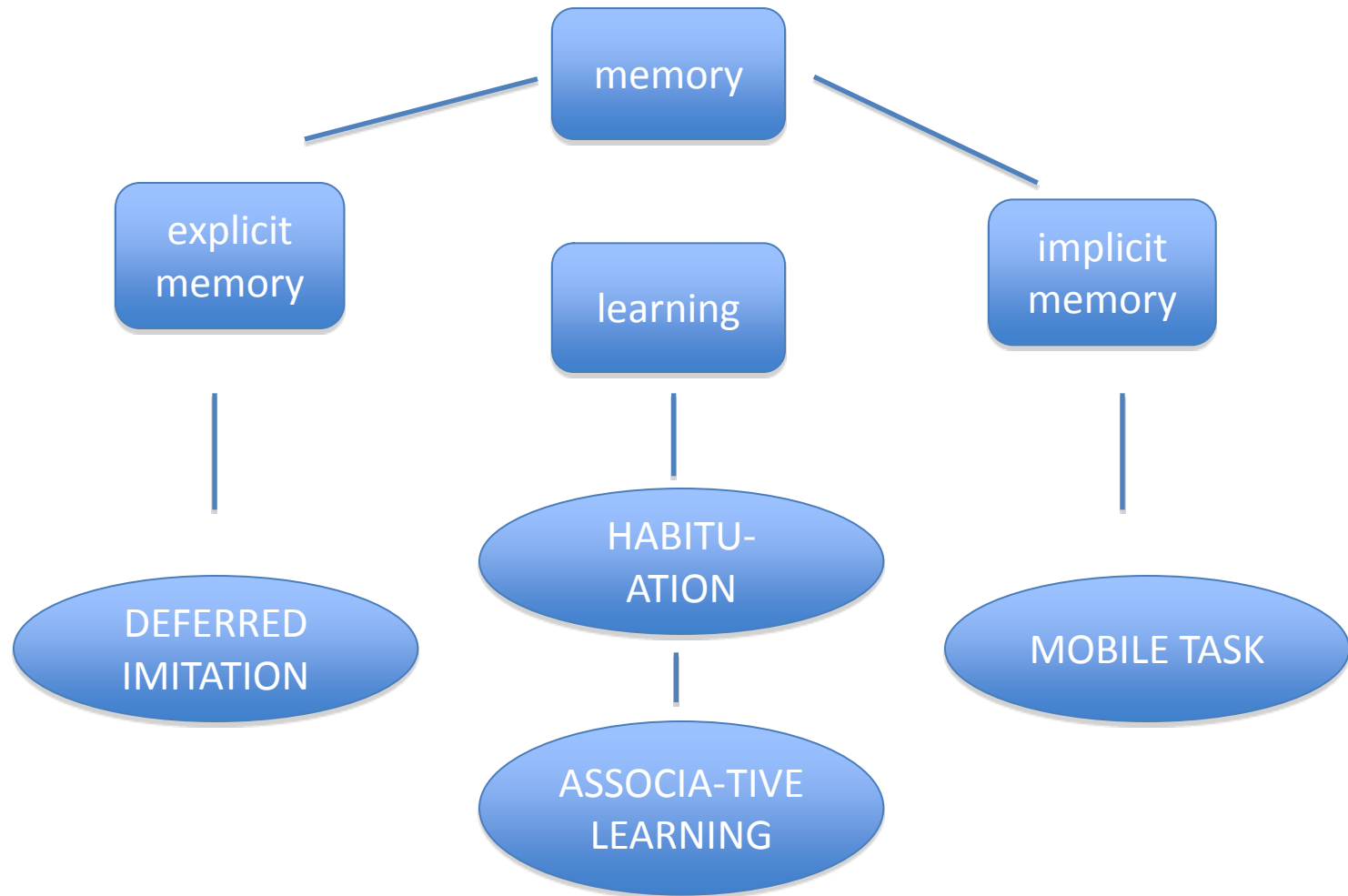


(Oberauer, K. & Lange, E.B., 2006)

## 2 major characteristics of the study

- Longitudinal design
  - t1 = 3 months
  - t2 = 6 months
  - t3 = 9 months
- Cross-cultural design
  - Cameroon sample (N =73)
  - German sample (N= 256)

# Paradigms



# Design of the study

Age	Learning	Learning and Anticipation	Implicit Learning and Memory	Explicit Memory
3 months	Habituation paradigm	Associative learning	Mobile task	
6 months	Habituation paradigm	Associative learning	Mobile task	Deferred imitation
9 months	Habituation paradigm	Associative learning		Deferred imitation

Additional assessment at all ages: the Bayley Scales of Development and video-recording of mother-infant play interaction

# Data collection in Cameroon



Team in Cameroon

Supervisor: Dr. Bettina Lamm

# Data collection in Cameroon



# PhD thesis: “Mother-child-interactions in two cultural contexts”

Previous research in our department: culture-specific differences

- Individuals in different cultural contexts follow different socialization models (‘developmental pathways’ – assumption of adaptation)

(e.g. Greenfield, Keller et al., 2003, Keller 2003)

- Significant differences in parental socialization goals, ethnotheories, and interaction-styles between cultural contexts

(e.g. Keller, 2007, Keller, Lamm et al., 2006)

# PhD thesis: “Mother-child-interactions in two cultural contexts”

## Previous research in our department: interaction behavior

- Western middle-class mothers of 3 months old infants show a ,distal parenting style‘, mothers from rural, traditonal contexts show a ,proximal parenting style‘

(e.g. Keller, Papaligoura et al., 2003)

- Western middle-class mothers of 19 months old infants show an ,autonomous play style‘, mothers from rural, traditonal contexts show a ,didactic play style‘

(e.g. Keller, Borke et al., under review)

# PhD thesis: “Mother-child-interactions in two cultural contexts”



# PhD thesis: “Mother-child-interactions in two cultural contexts”

## Research questions

- Do maternal play strategies effect the infants' developmental status?
- Do maternal play strategies predict particular skills or competences later in infancy?
- (How) Do maternal play strategies develop over a period of 9 months?

# Thank you!



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