

## **KEMAMPUAN PENGULANGAN *NON-WORD* KANAK-KANAK UMUR PERSEKOLAHAN DI KUBANG KERIAN, KELANTAN: SATU KAJIAN *PILOT***

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Kemampuan pengulangan *non-word* (bukan kata benar) berkait rapat dengan memori fonologi individu. Kemampuan ini sangat penting, terutama untuk tujuan pembelajaran bahasa. Ertinya, untuk belajar secara berkesan, individu harus memiliki kemampuan pengulangan *non-word* yang mencukupi. Oleh yang demikian, tujuan kajian ini ialah untuk mewujudkan ujian pengulangan *non-word* versi Bahasa Melayu dan pada masa sama menilai kebolehan lima puluh kanak-kanak berusia antara 7 hingga 9 tahun, yang menghadiri sekolah kebangsaan di Kubang Kerian, Kelantan. Antara 50 kanak-kanak tersebut, 22 kanak-kanak dipilih dari kelas pertama ("berprestasi tinggi"), 15 kanak-kanak direkrut dari kelas tengah ("berprestasi sederhana") dan selebihnya 13 kanak-kanak yang dipilih dari kelas akhir ("berprestasi rendah"). Ujian ini terdiri daripada tiga puluh *non-word* yang telah dipilih dan dibentuk berdasarkan kesesuaian subjek. Panjang *non-word* ialah sekitar 1 hingga 5 suku kata yang telah dirakam dan dikalibrasi dalam cakera padat. Sepanjang ujian, *non-word* didengarkan kepada setiap kanak-kanak melalui *headphone*. Mereka kemudian diminta untuk mendengar rangsangan dan mengulang secara lisan apap-apa yang mereka dengari. Analisis dilakukan dengan menggunakan ANOVA, dan didapati bahawa ketiga-tiga kumpulan secara statistiknya berbeza antara satu sama lain ( $p < 0.05$ ). Penemuan ini konsisten dengan kajian sebelumnya. Kesimpulan ujian ini boleh menjadi pengukur untuk menentukan kemampuan pengulangan *non-word* kanak-kanak sekolah. Ujian pengulangan *non-word* ini sangat mudah dan cepat untuk dijalankan. Tambahan pula persembahan stimulus dikawal dan diselia dengan baik (stimulus dalam bentuk CD). Kajian selanjutnya perlu difokuskan kepada perlaksanaan ujian tersebut pada kumpulan subjek yang lebih besar dan merangkumi kumpulan usia yang lain pula.

**Kata kunci:** *non-word*, pengulangan, kanak-kanak, sekolah rendah, Malaysia.

## **NON-WORD REPETITION ABILITY OF THE SCHOOL-AGED CHILDREN IN KUBANG KERIAN, KELANTAN: A PILOT STUDY**

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Non-word repetition ability is closely related to the phonological working memory of an individual. This ability is extremely important, especially for language learning purposes. That is, to learn effectively, the individual should have an adequate non-word repetition ability. Therefore, the aim of this study was to develop a valid Malay version of non-word repetition test and assess its outcomes in fifty children aged 7 to 9 years old, attending a regular school in Kubang Kerian, Kelantan. Among those 50 children, 22 children were selected from the first class ("high achievers"), 15 children were recruited from the middle class ("average achievers") and the remaining 13 children were selected from the final class ("low achievers"). The test consisted of thirty non-words which had been selected and developed accordingly. The non-word lengths ranged from 1 to 5 syllables which were pre-recorded and calibrated on a compact disc. During the testing, the non-words were delivered to each child via headphones. They were then required to listen to the stimuli and repeat verbally what they had heard. Using ANOVA, it was found that all three groups were statistically different from each other ( $p < 0.05$ ). These findings are consistent with the previous studies. To conclude, this test can be a promising tool to determine the non-word repetition ability of school children. It is easy and rapid to administer. Further, the stimulus presentation is well-controlled (available in CD form). Further studies should focus on conducting the test on larger groups of subjects and cover other age ranges.

**Key words:** non-word, repetition, children, primary school, Malaysia.

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