

ADAPTATION OF AFASIC CHECKLIST AND GENDER INFLUENCES ON THE LANGUAGE ABILITY OF SCHOOL AGE CHILDREN

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This purpose of this study was to adapt the AFASIC checklist and to see the influence of gender differences on school-aged children language skills. The AFASIC checklist is a screening tool to help teachers identify children with speech and language problems. 50 school-aged children (25 boys and 25 girls) in Standard 2 Gombak primary school were selected as subjects. All subjects were Malay children, first language speakers of Malay and were not reported as having speech and language problem. The adapted version of the checklist in Malay (Ss-A-A-Ad) was given to teachers as a screening tool. The results showed that Ss-A-A-Ad has high sensitivity and specificity that is 97% and 83%. Overall mean score for all subjects was 2.70. These showed that normal subjects evidence only few language difficulty characteristics. Comparison was made between boys and girls. T-test showed that there was no significant difference between boys and girls indicating no significant differences between gender. Girls have the highest mean score in vocabulary category (0.92) followed by cognitive process (0.68). For boys, the highest mean score was obtained in cognitive process category (0.28) followed by vocabulary with a mean score of 0.2.

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