

A PRODUCTION OF THE SYNTACTICAL PROCESSES OF 2 YEARS OLD MALAY CHILDREN WHOSE MOTHER TONGUE IS MALAY

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The syntactical processes of 2 years old Malay children whose mother tongue is Malay were studied. The samples were 3 children aged between 2 years 5 months and 2 years 11 months. The purpose of this study is to explain the usage of the noun and the verb phrase structure rules and the transformational rules employed by these children. The sampling was done randomly by following certain criterion. Data collection was based on 100 utterances in each subject taken from spontaneous interaction between the children and their family members. The data was analysed descriptively. Each utterance was analysed using tree structure at the surface and deep structure levels. The results showed that the phrase structure rules of noun and the verb phrases are different for each subject. The usage of phrases and words in subject I were displayed in a variety of types compared to subjects Y and L. These results indicated that the variety of phrases and words in phrase structure rules increase consistently with the increase of age and Mean Length Utterance (MLU) value. There were 4 types of the transformations produced which are deletion, fronting, backing and insertion. The results also demonstrated the variety of types and the patterns of the utterances produced by the subjects. The study demonstrated the syntactical capabilities of these children, showing a continuum of development among the age range concerned.

Mazalan, M.F. 2002. A Production of the Syntactical Processes of 2 Years Old Malay Children Whose Mother Tongue is Malay. Bachelor of Speech Science Thesis. Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia.