

NARRATIVE SKILLS IN MALAY CHILDREN WITH SEVERE HEARING IMPAIRMENT: A DESCRIPTIVE STUDY

Nor Azrita Mohd Zain

This research was done to study the oral narrative skills of Malay hearing impaired children. Analysis of MLU per t-unit (Hunt, 1970), information score (Renfrew, 1997) and narrative level (Applebee, 1978) were used for this purpose. The narrative samples were obtained from five Malay severely hearing-impaired children who have been wearing hearing aid for five years. As a whole, this study succeeded in describing the narrative skills of the children. Findings revealed that these children obtained 0.2136 for the mean of syntax complexity, between the range of 0.174 and 0.254. Meanwhile, the mean for the information score (Renfrew, 1997) was 30.77% at the range of 17.3% and 38.46%. For the analysis of the narrative level (Applebee, 1978), it was found that three of the hearing impaired children were at the level of Unfocused Temporal Chains and the other two at the level of Primitive Temporal Narratives. The three narrative analyses were found to show an obvious relation between the information score analysis (Renfrew, 1997) and the narrative level (Applebee, 1978). The result was also compared with that of Azmarul (2001) who did a study on the narrative skills of five year olds normal Malay children. The comparison showed that the hearing impaired children scored higher in the syntax complexity and narrative level (Applebee, 1978) analyses.

Mohd Zain, N.A. 2003. Narrative Skills in Malay Children with Severe Hearing Impairment: A Descriptive Study. Bachelor of Speech Science Thesis. Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia.