

## **THE LANGUAGE CAPABILITIES OF DOWN SYNDROME CHILDREN: A PRAGMATIC ANALYSIS**

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The purpose of this study is to discuss the development of 8 pragmatic functions used by Down Syndrome (DS) children who speak Malay. Subjects were 16 DS children with mental age of 3.0 to 4.5 years old with 7 months interval. This study aims to provide a description of the usage of pragmatic language functions with an increase in mental age. The use of pragmatic functions was examined in a semi-structured setting. A series of questions was used by the examiner to elicit different language functions. The responses of the subjects had to be functionally appropriate and accurate. Findings revealed: 1) a general increase in the appropriate responses used by children with increase of mental age; 2) appropriate responses were not confined to the same categories across different mental age levels.

Hosni, N. 2003. *The Language Capabilities of Down Syndrome Children: A Pragmatic Analysis*. Bachelor of Speech Science Thesis. Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia.