

## **ACQUISITION OF SPATIAL WORDS AMONG MALAYSIAN CHINESE PRESCHOOL CHILDREN**

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This preliminary study aimed to discuss the development and the acquisition of spatial words in Malaysian Chinese preschool children who speak Mandarin. The study aimed to determine the age of acquisition and the sequence of acquisition of spatial words in Malaysian Chinese preschool children. Subjects were 36 children aged in between two to five years old with six months interval (3 males and 3 females for each group). The comprehension and the production of the spatial words were tested in the study. Four items were used to test each of these spatial words to ensure the validity of the study. Commands would be repeated or simplified by uttering the targeted spatial word only in order to elicit responses from the children. The findings revealed that 1) the children began to acquire comprehension and production of the spatial words at age 3;1 – 3;6, 2) there were two stages of development of spatial words, i.e., stage 2;0 – 3;0 and stage 3;1 – 5;0, 3) an increase in correct responses in children for both comprehension and production test with age, 4) comprehension was better than production for all spatial words. Factors that contribute to the pattern of development of spatial words were also discussed.

Teng, W.P. 2003. Acquisition of Spatial Words among Malaysian Chinese Preschool Children. Bachelor of Speech Science Thesis. Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia.