

## **PRAGMATIC DEVELOPMENT AMONG NORMAL MALAY PRESCHOOLERS**

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This preliminary study aims to discuss the development of 10 pragmatic functions among normal Malay preschoolers. Subjects consisted of 76 children between the ages of 2 to 6 years old. The subjects were divided into 8 age groups with six months interval. An adapted and translated pragmatic protocol form was used to elicit the pragmatic functions in a structured setting. The correct responses fulfil 2 criteria which are functionally appropriate and functionally accurate. Findings revealed that the acquisition level of the child increases with age. Besides that, there is a developmental pattern in the acquisition of pragmatic among Malay preschoolers. The pattern of pragmatic development of Malay preschool children is not similar to Mandarin speaking Malaysian Chinese children and English speaking Malaysian children except for pragmatic functions of request for information, nonverbal turntaking, affirmation/negation and revision function. Similarities of pragmatic function development of Malay, Chinese and American preschoolers are observed. There is a high increment of development of pragmatic functions occurring until the age of 3 years old except for the functions of personal, request for object, request for information and revision.

Tg. Mohmed Nor Izam, T.H. 2004. Pragmatic Development among Normal Malay Preschoolers. Bachelor of Speech Science Thesis. Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia.