

DEVELOPMENT OF PRAGMATIC LANGUAGE AMONG NORMAL MALAY CHILDREN AGED 6;0 to 6;11

Hoong Mun Wah

ABSTRACT

This pioneer study aims to discuss the pragmatic aspect of language among Malay children aged 6;0 to 6;11. Subjects were 12 children from 3 different kindergartens from the area of Sri Rampai and Gombak Federal Territory (2 males and 2 females were selected from each kindergarten). The purpose of this study is to provide a descriptive data regarding the frequency of usage of conversational acts and conversational moves among these Malay children. A language sample consisting of 150 utterances were collected as the data. Language sample was elicited from 3 different settings including story retelling, interaction with adults and interaction with peers. Analysis of the conversational acts and conversational moves were based on Dore's Conversational Acts and Martlew's Conversational Moves. Findings of the study showed that Malay children aged 6;0 to 6;11 are able to acquire all the conversational acts according to Dore's Conversational Acts. Next, we found that there was a statistical significant difference found in the usage of conversational acts between the males and females especially in describing a situation and making requests. Finally, Malay children in this age group are able to engage in conversation. Overall, the percentage of responding moves was higher than initiating moves based on Martlew's Conversational Moves.

Hoong, M.W. 2007. *Development of Pragmatic Language Among Normal Malay Children Aged 6;0 to 6;11*. Bachelor of Speech Science Thesis. Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia.