

**SEMANTIC ACQUISITION IN MANDARIN SPEAKING CHILDREN WITH
COCHLEAR IMPLANT AS COMPARED TO THEIR NORMALLY
DEVELOPING PEERS AGED 3;0 to 6;0:
PERSONAL REFERENCE**

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ABSTRACT

A culturally and linguistically appropriate standardized test for Mandarin-speaking Malaysians is not available. There are only a handful of published studies that have compared the early development of reference in young normally developing children to that of children with language impairment. Therefore, a study on the usage of personal reference amongst 160 normally developing (ND) children is used as a scale of reference to investigate the usage of personal reference in 4 children with Cochlear implant(CI). In this study, a language sample which consists of 100 utterances was collected in 2 different contexts (play and spontaneous conversation) for each subject in this study. Data obtained were transcribed and analysed by using Microsoft Office Excel 2003, SALT VR9 and SPSS v15.0. Results showed that ND children as young as 3 years old used all three categories of personal reference in their speech. As for the 4 subjects with CI, the usage of personal reference does not merely follow their implant age. There is only 1 subject whose performance is parallel to her normally developing peers in this study. Factors that contribute to the performance of all subjects with CI were discussed in this study. In conclusion, the study outcome regarding subjects with CI serves as a preliminary step for further studies to investigate more on the language performance of children with CI. It is necessary to know the rate and patterns of acquiring reference in order to gauge accurate expectations of typical development and typical patterns of learning. This is an important study on the development in semantics to obtain a set of data which is suitable to be used in our clinical setting.

Cheah, Z.X. 2009. *A Case Study on Semantic Acquisition in Mandarin Speaking Children with Cochlear Implants as Compared to their Normally Developing Peers Aged 3;0 to 6;11: Personal Reference*. Bachelor of Speech Science Thesis. Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia.