

# **A CASE STUDY ON THE USAGE OF ATTRIBUTES IN MANDARIN IN CHILDREN WITH COCHLEAR IMPLANT AS COMPARED TO NORMALLY DEVELOPING CHILDREN AGED BETWEEN 3;0-6;11**

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This is a case study on the usage of Attributes in Mandarin children with cochlear implant as compared to the usage of Attributes in Mandarin in normally developing children aged 3;0-6;11. The total of 164 subjects in this study comprise of 20 females and 20 males in each of the four age groups (i.e. 3;0-3;11, 4;0-4;11, 5;0-5;11, and 6;0-6;11) and four subjects with cochlear implant that had been implanted for between 3 years to 6 years 11 months. Language samples that were collected consist of 10 utterances, with 50 of the utterances from play session and another 50 utterances from conversation. The transcriptions were then analysed using the Systematic Analysis of Language Transcripts (SALT) programme to encode each attribute used by the subjects according to the categories: DIMENSION, PHYSICAL PROPERTY, COLOUR, HUMAN PROPENSITY, AGE and VALUE. The frequencies of Attributes according to the categories were computed. Results from this study revealed that the total usage of Attributes use by subjects in all age groups is Attributes from the category of DIMENSION. The usage of Attributes from the category of PHYSICAL PROPERTY showed reduction in composition across the age groups. Whereas in contrary, Attributes in the categories COLOUR, HUMAN PROPENSITY and AGE increased in its composition in total Attributes used. The category VALUE showed inconsistencies in composition across the age groups. The number of *Type* was found to increase across the age groups, although the differences were not significant. Subsequently, descriptive analysis was done individually for the subjects with cochlear implants. The results suggests that, overall, the frequency of usage of Attributes in the children with cochlear implants are comparable to the frequency of usage of the normally developing children based on either their chronological age or implant age, depending on other factors such as age of implantation, duration of implantation, social and educational factors and other possible factors that affects the development of language in children with cochlear implants. However, in terms of the types of attributes used, it was found that there were fewer types of Attributes used by the children with cochlear implants. However, in terms of the types of Attributes used, it was found that there were fewer types of Attributes used by the children with cochlear implants in comparison to the normally developing children. The types of Attributes used by the subjects with cochlear implants consisted of those early acquired types. The types of Attributes which are present in normally developing children age 5 years to 6 years 11 months ( such as Attributes from the category of HUMAN PROPENSITY) were not used by any of the subjects with cochlear implants. The potential value of this study is illuminated in efforts to develop a Mandarin language assessment suited for the Malaysian population.

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