

**CASE STUDY ON SEMANTIC ACQUISITION IN MALAY SPEAKING CHILDREN
WITH COCHLEAR IMPLANT AS COMPARED TO THEIR NORMALLY
DEVELOPING PEERS AGE 3;0-6;11: SEMANTIC CASE MARKER**

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This study aims to learn more about language development in children with Cochlear Implant (CI) in terms of semantic case marker acquisition based on 4 CI subjects individually as compared to results gathered from 144 normally developing Malay speaking children aged 3;0 to 6;11. 100 consecutive utterances were selected from each language sample based on 2 contexts- play and conversation. For normally developing children, there is a significant difference at least in one age group ($p < 0.05$) with age 5 to 5;11 based on the highest number of different types of semantic case markers used. Overall, the children used semantic case markers as early as 3 years old and the complexity of usage increased with age. Data based on the 4 CI subjects showed that the usage of semantic case markers in 3 of the subjects parallel approximately with the usage of their normally developing peers in terms of chronological and hearing age. However, in the fourth subject, the performance shown is very low as compared to the normally developing children. The most significant factor seen to cause these differences is the age of implantation where there is an obvious difference in children who are implanted early compared to those who received implantation late. There are also other factors discussed in this study. As the study consisted only 4 CI subjects, the usage of semantic case markers analyzed is simply contextual and cannot describe the performance of semantic case marker development in all children with CI in Malaysia. This pioneer study hopefully makes way towards a more representative study in the future.

Mohamad, M. 2009. Case Study on Semantic Acquisition in Malay Speaking Children with Cochlear Implant as Compared to their Normally Developing Peers Aged 3;0 to 6;11 : Semantic Case Marker. Bachelor of Speech Science Thesis. Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia.