

## **SYNTACTIC PROFILE OF MALAY LANGUAGE AMONGST MALAY CHILDREN WITHIN AGES 2;3 to 3;11**

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### **ABSTRACT**

The purpose of this study is to describe the syntactic profile of the Malay language amongst 20 Malay children within ages 2;3 to 3;11. The language samples were collected in Klang Valley in the form of free conversation and narration. Audio and video recordings were done for 30 minutes up to one hour in length. Then, transcription was carried out according to the Conversational Analysis format. Data analysis was done qualitatively (Language Assessment, Remediation, and Screening Procedures, LARSP); and quantitatively (Excel 2007). Description was made for: 1) the use of verb phrases in free conversation; 2) the use of sentences in free conversational and 3) the use of verb phrase and sentences in narration. In free conversation, the frequency and the types of combinations of verb phrases is not linear with age. 6 types of verb-phrase combinations were produced. Only verbs were produced with the highest frequency. Production of the early verb “nak” reduced with age. All children produced simple sentences. Complex sentences were produced at 3;0 to 3;11. LARSP analysis found that sentences were produced at stage II ( QX, SV, VO, Neg X, and others) and stage III (QXY, Neg XY, SVO, SVA, and others ) In narration, the frequency and types of combinations of verbs phrases is linear with age. 4 types of verb phrase combinations were produced. All children produced simple sentences. Complex sentences were produced at 2;9 to 2;11. Coordinate sentences were produced at 3;0 to 3;5. The LARSP analysis showed that sentences produced were at stage II (QX, SV, VO, Neg X, and others) and Stage III (Neg XY, SVO, SVA, and others). All groups have very low narration scores. MCUS and MLU scores increased with age. The findings of this research would contribute towards building a normative data for syntax development of syntactic assessment tools for the targeted population, and would help the speech-language pathologist in generating goals for the clients in sentence production.

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