

NARRATIVE ABILITIES OF FIVE AND SIX YEAR OLD MALAY CHILDREN

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ABSTRACT

Current practices in the field of speech-language pathology employ narratives in clinical assessment and intervention. This study aims to investigate the narrative abilities of Malay children in Malaysia. 24 Malay children aged 5;0 to 6;11 participated in two tasks i.e story retelling and relating experience. Analysis focused on the macrostructure (narrative structure) and microstructure (syntactic production) of narratives. Structural narrative analysis (Labov 1972) and language profile tool i.e Language Assessment Remediation Screening Procedure (Crystal 1989) were used to analyse the narratives produced by the subjects in the two tasks. The results showed that the narrative performances increased with age in story retelling task. The retold stories produced by 5 and 6 year olds contained fewer appendages (abstract and coda). The frequency of use of other structural components (orientation, complication, results and evaluation) increased with age. In retelling experiences, results indicated statistically significant age effects in the use of evaluation. Besides that, the structures produced were different from story retelling in that the structures predominantly had sub-events rather than complications. Factors contributing to these findings were discussed. LARSP analysis indicated that there were differences of syntactic production in the two tasks. Results also showed no gender differences in the narrative abilities of story retelling and relating experience. The findings of this study provide an idea of narrative abilities of Malaysian Malay children, as an initial step towards obtaining normative data and suggesting a narrative assessment tool for local children.

Chan, C.E. 2010. *Narrative Abilities of Five and Six Year Old Malay Children*. Bachelor of Speech Science Thesis. Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia.