

NASALANCE SCORES FOR ENGLISH SPEAKING CHINESE CHILDREN

Najah Farahin Bt Mustafa

This study is intended to establish normative data of nasalance scores for a set of newly developed stimuli in English and to investigate gender and age influences on nasalance scores for each stimuli. Language differences also had been examined across all stimuli in this study. Selected participants were healthy English speaking Chinese children aged 6 to 7 year 11 month old. Only children with hearing levels and speech and language abilities within normal limits were included. Perceptual ratings of nasality were made based on the GOS.SP.ASS.'98: Speech Profile for children with cleft palate, whilst nasalance scores were recorded for each stimulus using the Nasometer. 50 children aged 6; 00 to 7; 11 years of age were recruited. None of the participants were perceived with abnormal nasality on the three standard stimuli. In the English language, the mean nasalance score was 15.68% (SD = 2.7, CI = 14.92 – 16.44) for oral passage, 26.56% (SD = 3.5, CI = 25.58 – 27.54) for oral-nasal sentences and 49.16% (SD = 4.2, CI = 47.98 – 50.34) for nasal sentences. Language and gender differences were observed in this study. Besides, age did not influence the nasalance scores across all stimuli. In conclusion, the present study provides the first set of normative nasalance data along with the first set of standardized stimuli in the English language for Malaysian population. The potential of native language to influence the nasalance scores of non native language is also highlighted.

Mustafa, N.F. 2011. Nasalance Scores for English Speaking Chinese Children. Bachelor of Speech Science Thesis. Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia.