Development of Metalinguistic Awareness: Evidence from Children’s Overt Productions

Laura Kirkby
East Tennessee State University

Mallory Dingess
East Tennessee State University

Jamesa Ewing
East Tennessee State University

Whitney Salvers
East Tennessee State University

Kerry Proctor-Williams
East Tennessee State University, williamk@etsu.edu

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Development of Metalinguistic Awareness: Evidence from Children's Overt Productions

Laura Kirkby, B.S., Mallory Dingess, B.S., James Ewing, B.S., Whitney Salyers, B.S., Kerry Proctor-Williams, Ph.D.
Department of Audiology & Speech-Language Pathology, College of Clinical & Rehabilitative Health Sciences

Purpose
- To examine young children's production of metalinguistic utterances and determine whether they change with age.

Background Information
- Metalinguistic awareness: The ability to reflect on and manipulate the structural elements of language (Waxman & Fillmore, 1980).
- Meta-questions and metacommentary are commonly used by linguists to guide a child in analyzing their language use (Waxman & Fillmore, 1980).

Methods
- Participants were divided into 3 groups: 3-5 year olds, total participants = 33. One outlier excluded: a 3;1 boy.
- Parents completed an ICD and a demographic questionnaire.
- The participants were divided into 3 groups:
  - 3-4 year olds: N = 13
  - 4-5 year olds: N = 13
  - 5-6 year olds: N = 8

Participants
- The participants were divided into 3 groups:
  - 3-4 year olds: N = 13
  - 4-5 year olds: N = 13
  - 5-6 year olds: N = 8

Results
- A 3 (Age) x 5 (Type) mixed model ANOVA was generated to examine changes in types of metalinguistic utterances between groups.
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Discussion
- This investigation examined the children's production metalinguistic utterances in daily language interactions, focusing on type and rate of metalinguistic utterances produced.
- Related to the development of metalinguistic awareness, children's performance appeared inconsistent.
- The results indicated that the children's performance appeared inconsistent.

References