

## DEVELOPMENT OF VOCABULARY LIST IN MALAYALAM FOR 1 TO 3 YEARS OLD CHILDREN

---

HIBA PARVEEN K , KEERTHANA RAMESH, ELIZEBATH P PAUL, SATISH KUMARASWAMY

Language acquisition is the process by which humans acquire the capacity to perceive, produce and use words to understand and communicate. This capacity involves the picking up of diverse capacities including syntax, phonetics, and an extensive vocabulary. Vocabulary are the sum of words used by, understood by, or at the command of a particular person or group.

The capacity to acquire and use language is a key aspect that distinguishes humans from other organisms. While many forms of animal communication exist, they have a limited range of no syntactically structured vocabulary tokens that lack cross cultural variation between groups.

It is very natural that parents are the child's first vocabulary teacher. Early linguistic interaction with parents /caregivers is almost certainly important in establishing and consolidating early abilities, long before the child is giving any indication of language abilities. As the language usage grows , the child goes on accumulating vocabulary items as he gets exposed to the vocabulary Mallikarjun, (2002) suggested that parents are sensitive and accurate observers . They provide rich source of information about their children's developments. Vishnu (2009) has demonstrated that the parents of Malayalam speaking children effectively provided most frequently using vocabulary in their house hold. Using a prepared list the frequency of usage of the words was selected from parents. Such vocabulary list provides valuable assistance in early language assessment and intervention. Dilna. P (2009) has demonstrated that the parents of Tulu speaking children.

### NEED FOR THE STUDY

Studies on communication inventories or vocabulary norms for Indian context are very minimal. In such a scenario, developing a vocabulary list method using a parental report provides a rich normative data which may serve as a clinical tool.

### AIM OF THE STUDY

The aim of the present study is to construct a receptive and expressive vocabulary list for 1 to 3 year Malayalam speaking children using parental reports.

## METHODOLOGY

### Formulation of word list

A set of familiar words in Malayalam language was formulated by taking words from Malayalam vocabulary test. Malayalam text books of children in the same age range, also from the parents of children who are in the same age range. After a collection of 300 words, the validation of the word list was done by 10 native Malayalam speakers for checking the recognition of these words in Malayalam language. The words are arranged according to the place of articulation of initial syllables and categorized as nouns, verbs, adjectives, adverbs and pronouns.

### Participants

All the subject participated in the study was mothers. All the participants were with in the age range of 24 to 36 yrs and native speakers of Malayalam language. All the children were screened for any speech language, hearing, otological, neurological, psychological or ophthalmic problem. . All families were Malayalam bilinguals

### Procedure

Each parent was given a copy of words and was instructed to select the words from the list which their children understand and produce. Parents were given a week's time to do this work and were asked to return the list for number and percentage analysis.

## RESULT

Percentage of words comprehended and expressed for both the groups (1 -2 years & 2-3years) were found. The formulation of the final word list was done based on the frequency of the particular word. The receptive and expressive vocabulary selected for the final list had a frequency of 40 % in the receptive age group. Maximum percentage for comprehension was obtained for verbs. Comprehension of nouns and other categories were obtained later. Comprehensions of pronouns were obtained after the adjectives and adverbs.

According to the place of articulation, words with initial vowels sounds acquired first and bilabial sounds followed. The orders of acquisition of words according to the place of articulation of the initial sounds are vowels, bilabials, palatals, and velar sounds.

## DISCUSSION

Results obtained show a general trend in word learning that is there is a vocabulary spurt in production and comprehension develops in a more linear fashion. Children show acceleration in rate of growth of expressive vocabulary during the second year. Receptive vocabulary exhibits a more linear trend in development during first year with limited increase in rate of growth towards the middle of the second year. Similarly, verbs are dominated in children's receptive and expressive vocabulary. By the end of 2<sup>nd</sup> year pronouns were comprehended more rapidly along with adjectives and adverb modifiers. Action words, noun modifiers, and verb modifiers significantly develops in child's expressive vocabulary by 3 year of age. The development of verbs in early vocabulary was study by Choi.S (1990). He shows that verbs constitute a

significant proportion of the early lexicon in and form a distinct morphological class verbs are also productive in multi word combinations from the beginning and occupy a consistent position in utterance.

## CONCLUSION

A word list in Malayalam language was validated and it consisted of 300 words. The word list consisted of receptive and expressive category for both 1-2 and 2-3 year old children in 7 major categories such as Nouns, Verbs, Pronouns, Prepositions, Adjectives, Adverbs, other words. The receptive and expressive word list was formulated based on the frequency of each word reported by the parents. Vocabulary distribution across the age group was found. This vocabulary list can be used to find out the growth of vocabulary development for 1-3 year old Malayalam speaking children. This list is a useful clinical tool to identify children who are at risk.

