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DEVELOPMENT OF VOCABULARY LIST IN MALAYALAM FOR 4-6 YEARS OLD CHILDREN

INTRODUCTION

Language is a system that consist of the development, acquisition, maintenance and use of complex systems of communication. Language is complex and multifaceted. The child who learns a language achieves the ability to comprehend and express a set of sounds and learns how these sounds can and cannot be combined into possible words.

Language acquisition is the process by which humans acquire the capacity to perceive and comprehend language, as well as to produce and use words and sentences to communicate. A vocabulary is a set of familiar words within a person's language. Vocabulary usually developed with age, serves as a useful and fundamental tool for communication and acquiring knowledge.

AIM OF THE STUDY

To develop a receptive and expressive vocabulary list in Malayalam for 4-6-year children using parental reports.

METHODOLOGY

A word list containing 310 words was formulated by taking words from Malayalam textbooks of children within the same age range and from the Malayalam scholars. Validation of wordlist was done by checking the same in 15 native Malayalam speakers. The words are arranged according to place of articulation of initial syllables and categorized as nouns, verbs, adjectives, adverbs and pronouns.

Mothers within the age range of 22 to 38 years was taken as the participants in the study and all they were native Malayalam speakers. Parents were given a copy of wordlist for 1 week and asked to select those words which their child can understand and produce.

RESULT AND DISCUSSION

The words comprehended and expressed for the age groups (4-5 years & 5-6 years) were found in percentage. Based on the frequency of the particular word, the final word list was formulated. The receptive and expressive vocabulary selected for the final list had a frequency of 45% in the receptive age group. Percentage for comprehension obtained for verbs was at maximum. Comprehension of nouns and other categories were obtained later and of pronouns were obtained after the adjectives and adverbs.

CONCLUSION

The whole study is based on the parental report, the receptive and expressive wordlist were formulated based on the frequency of each word reported by the parents. Vocabulary distribution across the corresponding age group was found. This vocabulary list can be used as a clinical tool to identify Malayalam speaking children who are at risk.

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