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Glossary

- Behavioral compliance** Any observable response by an individual viewed in terms of stimulus, response, or consequence that meets the task criteria of the examiner.
- Brown's stages** The stages during which 1.0–4.5 morphemes occur in an average sentence produced by a child. This range typically corresponds to 2–5 years of age.
- Complex sentence** A sentence containing a main clause and one or more subordinate clauses; includes more than one main verb.
- Conjoined sentence** A sentence that is composed of two independent clauses joined by a linking word or a conjunction.
- Contextualized** Occurring in the immediate environment of the speaker and listener, including past experiences that each brings to the situation.
- Contingent (response type)** Dependent on, and related to, a stimulus utterance.
- Contrived** Unlike the communication styles and patterns that appear in ordinary day-to-day communication.
- Criterion-referenced test** Assessment of an individual's development of certain skills in terms of absolute levels of mastery. Performance is not compared to that of peers, but only to the predetermined mastery criteria.
- Decontextualized** Language with little information outside of the linguistic signal itself to help a listener derive meaning.
- Extralinguistic cues** Additional information that accompanies the linguistic signal and helps the listener understand what is being said. Examples include intonation, gestures, facial expression, and objects and events in the environment.
- Illocutionary force** The speaker's intent in a communication act; that which a speaker is performing when verbalizing (e.g., thanking, promising, requesting, describing, reporting).
- Imitative (response type)** Response that copies, almost exactly, an utterance spoken previously by a conversational partner; a direct repetition of a previous speaker's utterance.
- Locative prepositions** Prepositions that pertain to location or spatial orientation of the state or action named by the verb (e.g., *in*, *on*, *under*, *beside*).
- Mean length of utterance (MLU)** Average length of oral expressions as measured by a representative sampling of oral language, usually obtained by counting the number of morphemes per utterance and dividing by the number of utterances.
- Metalinguistic ability** Ability to think about language and to comment on it, as well as to produce and comprehend it; language awareness—a temporary shift in attention from what is being said to the language used to say it; ability to reflect on language.
- Morphological markers** Specific endings attached to words, such as the *ing* ending on verbs or the possessive *'s* attached to nouns.
- Naturalistic** Similar to communication styles and patterns that appear in ordinary day-to-day communication.

- Noncontingent (response type)** An utterance not dependent or semantically related to the utterance that precedes it.
- Norm-referenced scores** Scores designed to compare an individual's performance to that of individuals in a norming sample. Tests that yield standard or age-equivalent scores are norm-referenced.
- Normative** Referring to information that is measured against a set of norms; compares a given score to scores received by a large group of individuals tested under standardized conditions.
- Object permanence** Awareness that an object is relatively permanent and is not destroyed if removed from the visual field (e.g., an individual is still present even if his face is covered by his hands).
- Presuppositional skills** Ability to infer information that is not contained in the sentence but must be known and understood if that sentence is to make sense; the ability to use shared knowledge and information given by the context to augment understanding of a language.
- Psychometric** Psychological and mental testing.
- Receptive language** Understanding of linguistic communication; may be visual or spoken; spoken or written messages received by the individual.
- Reliability** The dependability of a test as reflected in the consistency of its scores upon repeated measurements of the same group; the stability of the score; the degree to which a score is free of random error.
- Simple sentence** Sentence containing one main clause, one main verb, and no subordinate clauses.
- Standard error of measurement** A derived score that uses as its unit the standard deviation of the population upon which the test was standardized. The standard error of measurement is used to determine a confidence interval around a subject's score. The confidence interval represents the range of scores within which a client's ideal "true" score is likely to fall, given the score the client actually obtained on any particular administration of the test.
- Standardized test** Test administered to a group of students to determine uniform or standard procedures and methods of interpretation.
- Validity** Extent to which a test measures that which it is intended to measure; the degree to which a test is free of bias, or systematic error.



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