



Play Reference Database

Database	Context (Subgroup)	Age Range	Grade in School	# Samples	Location	Special Coding
Play	Con (Play)	2;8 – 5;8	P, K	69	WI	SI

Participants

Typically developing children, ranging in age from 2;8 - 5;8, were drawn from preschools in Madison and kindergarten classrooms in the Madison Metropolitan Public School District. These children, whose primary language is English, came from a variety of economic backgrounds and ability levels. "Typically developing" was determined by normal progress in school and absence of special education services. Economic background was determined by eligibility for the free lunch program. Ability level was determined by teacher rating. Age, gender, and grade data is available for all children.

Elicitation Protocol

Materials

- audio or video recorder
- Play dough, small toys, blocks etc.
- quiet location free of distractions with a table and two chairs

Preparation

Check the recorder for loudness levels. Record the date, student's name or ID, birth date, age, and grade.

Directions

Playing with play dough or small toys: Follow the child's suggestions, request directions etc. Comment on the child's activity.

"I've bought some play dough for us to play with today. I wonder what we could make together."

"Let's make ---. What do we need to do to make it?"

"Here are two cows. What should we do with them?"

"What other animals go in the barn?"

Transcription Notes

Utterances were segmented into Communication Units (C-units) as defined in the SALT documentation. All transcripts were timed and pauses, within and between utterances, of two or more seconds in length, were marked.

Coding Notes

[EO:word] marks overgeneralization errors

[EW:word] marks other word-level errors

[EU] marks utterance-level errors

Subordination Index (SI) Coding

SI coding was applied to all samples. SI is a measure of syntactic complexity which produces a ratio of the total number of clauses (main and subordinate clauses) to the number of C-units. A clause, whether it is main or subordinate, is a statement containing both a subject and a predicate. Grammatically, a subject is a noun phrase and a predicate is a verb phrase. Main clauses can stand by themselves. Subordinate clauses depend on the main clause to make sense. They are embedded within an utterance as noun, adjective, or adverbial clauses (see Appendix O).

Acknowledgements

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