

GUYANA NARRATIVES DATABASE

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OVERVIEW

The Guyana Narratives database is comprised of 93 story-retell narratives using the wordless picture book "Frog, Where Are You?" (Mercer Mayer, 1969). Samples were elicited from typically-developing children, ages 3;4 - 10;10, residing in Guyana, South America. All the children spoke Guyanese English.

ELICITATION PROTOCOL

All samples were collected from school-age children attending pre-schools and elementary schools located in the capital city of Georgetown, Guyana in South America. Samples were elicited by examiners who spoke Standard Guyanese English. Children in the study were asked to tell a story based on the wordless picture book story "Frog, Where Are You?" (Mercer Mayer, 1969). Examiners allowed the children time to review the pictures in the book before asking them to tell the story. For children who were reticent, examiners initiated the process by going through the book and pointing out pictures to the child. Children were encouraged to produce a narrative using prompts such as, "Take a look at all the pictures in my special storybook. Then I want you to tell me a story." If the child was hesitant during the process, the examiner was trained to use phrases such as, "Can you tell me something about this page?" or "What do you think is happening here?"

INCLUSION CRITERIA: In order to participate the children were expected to:

- Be enrolled in a "regular" pre-school or elementary school located in the capital city of Georgetown, Guyana.
- Be between the ages of 3; 0 and 11;00
- NOT be identified with a sensory (hearing), cognitive (thinking), or developmental impairment (e.g. autism, cerebral palsy, etc.)—per parent & teacher report.
- Score within normal limits on the Token Test for Children-2nd Edition (TTFC-2).

EXCLUSION CRITERIA: Children with the following characteristics were excluded from the study:

- Children who were unable to use auditory or visual modes for communication.
- Children with severe attention deficits who were unable to remain seated/stable for at least 3 minutes.
- Children with severe behavioral disorders who were unable to follow simple directions.

TRANSCRIPTION NOTES:

Utterances were segmented into communication units as defined in the SALT documentation. The transcripts begin and end with the student's first and last utterance, respectively.

CODING NOTES:

- [EP:word] marks pronoun errors in Standard English
- [EO:word] marks overgeneralization errors in Standard English
- [EW] marks extraneous word
- [EW:word] marks other word-level error (unclassified)
- [EU] marks utterance-level error (also marks utterances with 3 or more errors)
- [FP] marks non-standard filled pause words such as "like", e.g., "You (like[FP]) get six card/s."

- [GC] marks confirmed instances of non-standard English productions that may represent Guyanese Creole—the native Creolese language spoken by many Guyanese. Note: Coding for Guyanese Creole [GC] in this database is an on-going.

All samples were hand-coded for subordination index (SI) and narrative scoring scheme (NSS) as defined in the SALT documentation.

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