

The Acquisition of Colloquial Singapore Malay

Some research has been done in the last few years on the Malay language. However, much of this has been on adult language (Cole & Hermon 1998, 2000, Cole, Hermon & Aman (to appear), Rogayah 1995). To date, very little research has been done on the acquisition of Malay (Aman 2002, 1999).

This paper will address the grammatical competence of Malay-speaking children between 3 and 5 years old and how much parental/primary caregivers' input influences the children's linguistic competence. It will discuss the morphological and syntactic features of Colloquial Singapore Malay acquired between 3-5 years of age and identify the type of structures which begin to emerge in relation to maturational factors and how can these be attributed to language processing.

The data that will be presented in this paper is taken from an on-going longitudinal study which video records the interactions between the children and the researchers, as well as between the children and their primary caregivers. These spontaneously produced data has been transcribed and coded using a complex database system.

References

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