

Abstract of the 6th research

عنوان البحث باللغة الانجليزية:

Mean Length of Utterance in Egyptian Colloquial Arabic Speaking Children

عنوان البحث باللغة العربية:

متوسط طول الكلام لدى الأطفال الناطقين باللغة العربية العامية المصرية

المجلة:

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Introduction: Mean length of utterance (MLU) is a measure of child's expressive language development. It could be obtained by estimating the average number of words per utterance. MLU is widely used as a metric for tracking the progress of children's language acquisition. As children learn their first language, their utterance evolves from simple words to more complex structures. MLU offers a quantitative measure that reflects the expansion of their grammatical and syntactical abilities. Many researchers studied MLU in English speaking children. However, there is deficiency in studies measuring MLU among Arabic speaking children.

Aim of the study: Our aim is to measure the MLU for typically developed Egyptian colloquial Arabic speaking children aged between 2 and 6 years in order to obtain normative data.

Subjects and Methods: A cross-sectional study involved 275 children aged between 2 and 6 years divided into 8 subgroups (A, B, C, D, E, F, G and H) arranged from youngest group (A) to oldest group (H) with 6 months interval between each age group, randomly selected from different nurseries in Fayoum, Egypt. These children underwent proper history taking and assessing MLU by showing each child 10 pictures of action verbs, asking him to describe what he sees in each picture MLU= total number of words /total number of utterances.

Results: The results showed that, in group (A) MLU was 2 ± 0.37 which increased gradually with age to reach 4.7 ± 0.46 in group (H) with p-value <0.001

Conclusions: The MLU is a good measure of language development up to 6 years. The results showed that MLU was 2 ± 0.37 in group A which increased gradually with age to reach 4.7 ± 0.46 in group (H). The found values can serve as a normative reference for Egyptian colloquial Arabic speaking children.

Keywords: (language, development, children, mean length of utterance).

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