Comprehension of Some Connectives in Spoken Arabic by Children

By

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Abstract

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This study sheds light on some Arabic connectives as acquired by Jordanian Children. The connectives that were investigated are qabl (before), ba9d (after), wa (and), 9ašan (because) and bas (but). A series of tasks were used to test the children’s comprehension of these connectives. The sample of the study consisted of thirty Jordanian children who belonged to five age groups. The first age group involved children aged about three years old, whereas the last age group involved children aged about seven years old.

The study aims at specifying the age at which Jordanian children start acquiring a certain connective. One variable was tackled throughout the study, that is, age. The findings of the study revealed that age plays a very crucial role in the development of connectives. Furthermore, it was found that the additive connective “wa” was the simplest to be acquired. Yet, “ba9d 2” was the most difficult to be mastered by children. For future research, it is recommended to study the production of connectives rather than the comprehension.