

ABSTRACT

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This research deals with The Acquisition of English Words by Hokkien Children at Prime One School. However, the acquisition in this study is not to be differentiated with language learning as the focus of this study is to describe English words productions by the subjects are to be observed in terms of the number of grammatical words (closed word class), and lexical words (open word class). This research will try to answer whether Hokkien Children at the age of five can gain many vocabularies of English as researched by Jackson. In particular, this research will try to answer the following problems: (1) What are lexical words of English acquired by Hokkien speaking children at the age of five? (2) What are grammatical words of English acquired by Hokkien speaking children at the age of five? (3) How do Hokkien speaking children at the age of five produce the English lexical and grammatical words? And (4) What is the dominant type of word that produced by Hokkien speaking children at the age of five?

In order to answer the research problems, a qualitative research is conducted to Hokkien speaking children who have not learned English before. They just get at the school naturally. All English words production by the subjects are all videotaped and some other written down in the diary. The findings indicate that the total number of words is 402 grammatical words and 876 lexical words. In view of the research, the following suggestion were made: (a) The length of time of the research should be longer and there should be more research subjects (2) This research should be followed up to Hokkien speaking children at other ages as 6,7,8 years in order to give more insights to as how many words are to be expected from those ages and from certain period of English learning and exposure (c) Further research study is to find out the accuracy percentage of English production.