

ABSTRACT

Agustina, Tiurmaya. 2006. The Acquisition of Vowels and Consonants by a 2-3 year old Child. Thesis. Graduate Program in English Applied Linguistics, State University of Medan. Advisor (I) Prof. Dr. Jawasi Naibaho. (II) Dr. Berlin Sibarani.

Key words: Language Acquisition, Vowel, consonant.

This research is dealing with longitudinal study on the language acquisition by two years old child covering phonological acquisition (vowel and consonant sounds).

This particular research will try to answer the following problems: (1) How does the development of a 2-3 year old child in acquiring vowel and consonants? (2) What kind of consonants does the subject acquire? (3) What kind of vowels does the subject acquire?. In order to acquire the answer to the research problems, a qualitative research is made towards to a child at the stage of two years to represent the holophrastic and sentence period. The research employed a longitudinal observational case study on a child two years old at his home. The conversation that the writer employed toward the subject was observed, recorded, and written down as the data.

The findings indicated that the subject's vowels and consonants varies from another children in general. The responses of the subject was also seen to be positively affecting the language development of the subject. However when compared with his friends in general, the language development of the subject seemed to be a little bit slower. However, his cognitive development was consider normal and suited to his age.

In view of research, the following suggestions were made: (a) Parents must encourage or reinforce their children to produce just the right sounds. (b) it should be continued by other researchers to conduct the research in order to know more about the findings of this research.

The writer believes that there are a lot of weakness in this analysis. Every positive comment is welcome for the improvement of this thesis.