

Measuring Conceptual Vocabulary in a Group of Arabic-Speaking Bilingual Children with and Without DLD

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A child's vocabulary size is a robust predictor of language, literacy skills, and academic performance [1]. In the case of bilingual children, the issue is what represents a fair measure of vocabulary. This is because bilingual children have been shown to exhibit varying levels of proficiency in their languages due to differences in word learning experiences and cognitive processes [2] which can add a layer of complexity to a diagnosis of Developmental Language Disorder.

The study focuses on investigating the effectiveness of conceptual scoring in improving classification accuracy between typically developing and DLD in children using the Lebanese Picture Naming Test [3]. The present study involved administering the LPNT to a sample of 50 Lebanese bilingual children ($M = 5.88$ years, $SD = 1.29$) twice: once in their native language, Lebanese Arabic, utilizing total scoring, and a second time using conceptual scoring (Lebanese Arabic, French and English). Additionally, participants completed tasks assessing nonword repetition, sentence repetition, and responded to a questionnaire aimed at understanding their language exposure to confirm the diagnosis of DLD in children presenting with a history of speech and language disorders. Preliminary findings reveal a significant difference between the two scoring methods across age groups, with conceptual scoring yielding higher scores compared to testing in the native language ($p < .001$). Further analysis is underway to explore the influence of sociodemographic factors and classification on expressive vocabulary development,

particularly among children identified as typically developing and those potentially presenting with developmental language disorder.

References:

[1] (Bleses et al., 2016; Catts et al., 2015; Duff et al., 2016; Jansky and Hirsch, 1972; Katz, 1986)

[2] (Bialystok & Martin, 2004; Bialystok et al., 2008; Hoff et al., 2012; Kohnert, 2010; Marchman et al., 2010; McMillen et al., 2020; Paradis, 2011; Thordardottir, 2011)

[3] (Kanj & El-Hassan, 2021)