

Assignment1_Poems_200171308

Question

When looking for research on how child minds learn,
I stumbled across this curious query.
For child language the parents are normally of concern,
So this particular question made me cheery.
How do Grandmothers speak to their Grandchildren?
Two generations past, the method may vary.
Had their features of language been overridden?
Or had their children done the contrary?
Now it's not the language choice they are trying to expose,
Rather something much more sciency was proposed.
Fundamental Frequency and temporal modifications,
Just what are these complicated specifications?
Fundamental Frequency, my what a mouthful,
The frequency of vocal chord vibrations, well isn't that dreadful!
It correlates with the pitch we perceive from voice,
That summary is surely a nicer choice.
Temporal modifications, why make it so complicated?
It's simply the time taken to make active changes,
(Even if it sounds unsophisticated).

Motivation behind the question

It is understood that adult to child speech varies,
So this research is about acoustic enquiries.
Through high pitch and increased variability,
This 'motherese' speech is quite a facility.
While research suggests mothers increase their pitch,
Fathers are not quite as bewitched.
However, these results lack individual variation,
Not even to mention cross cultural fluctuation.
A study of sixteen parents, method same to this,
Indicates alternative ways to change in pitch.
Moreover, child rearing patterns change with time,
So surely 'motherese' speech will follow this rhyme.

Hypothesis

The researcher's hazard a guess,
That language over generations would progress,
They said it would differ,
From London to Ganges river,
For evolution is an ongoing process.

The grandmother's backgrounds spanned,
Across ages and classes abound,
So while they may differ,
Their daughters with access to Twitter,
Their knowledge of science was just as grand.

For mother's the researchers found,
That to them 'motherese' was talking down,
So the researcher's suggested,
As social media's influence was uncontested,
That variation between mother's was abound.

The research's pondered for days,
How they could get academic appraisal,
So they suggested parentese,
Was a learned type of abc's,
And the scientific community was amazed!

Method

Setting

An interview room,
So carpeted and quiet,
A comfy setting.
Constant audio,
For all the many subjects,
No interruptions.
Relaxed ambiance,
Child on grandmother's lap,
Just themselves present.
Adult to adult,
Grandma and interviewer,
Just themselves present.
To record themselves,
Joint to outside recorder,
Clip on microphone.

Participants

Sixteen grandmothers,
Forty nine to sixty four,
All were British born.
First language English,
Ranged across broad social class,
Quite a wide sample.
Sixteen grandchildren,

Spoken to by their grandmas,
Wide range of ages.
Youngest at twelve months,
Oldest at thirty six months,
Four per six month band.
Exact same sample,
Wheldall's 'motherese' study,
Two folk's different.

Voice analysis

Edited to suit,
Adult subject voice only,
Other sounds removed.
Reading of story,
Ten minute conversation,
Both were analysed.
Visispeech software,
Fundamental frequency,
Wide frequency caps.
Mimic range of voice,
Minimum one two two hertz,
Max six one nine hertz.
Fundamental freq.,
Acoustic pitch correlate,
Logarithmic link.
Adult versus child,
Through listener difference,
Shown by semitones.

Data analysis

Fundamental freq.,
Through all mean, mode and S.D,
All four conditions.
Adult versus child,
Time of story read compared,
Chat analysed too.
Modifications,
Adult versus child speech looked at,
Reading verse chatting.
Mean/mode relation,
Significant results seen,
Qualitative scores.
Check validity,
Fundamental Frequency,

Average samples.
Grandma verse mother,
Quali. And quantitative,
Prosodic changes.

Results

When talking to their grandchildren their pitch of voice increased,
For frequency of mean, mode and S.D. it was only in A-A speech did they cease.
Listener-difference scores, indicating modifications,
Showed a range of individual declarations.
With a frequency mean ranging minus to plus,
A thirty five second duration did not make a fuss.
When viewed on a whole, so it was found,
That wider variation in conversations held ground.
In both mean and mode for conversation,
Listener-difference scores held greater acclamation.
It was also found that grandmotherese,
Was similar, though not identical, to their daughter's abc's.
With raised scores in every measure,
It's not a surprise their modifications are greater.

And so the results show,
Maintenance of A-C speech does not require constant assistance.
So grandmotherese will show,
Their register is higher but variability displays resistance.

Consequences

When reflecting on their research, the reasons behind the differences were unclear,
Was it due to generational difference?
Or would results influenced by mood and emotion be more cohere?
The differences may also be due,
To a situation much more blue.
Their speech could be influenced by how often,
They spend their time with their grandchildren.
If this were solely the case then we could assume,
That the differences between female generations would apply to fathers too.
However, this is most certainly not the case,
So more research is needed before we can touch base.
It may also be argued,
That the generational differences is genuine,
With mothers more aware, of their role in child language welfare,
They are more attentive to the linguistic fanfare.

Human language faculty

If such a phenomena is learned,
Then we can work out how part of our language is earned,
With parentese information,
Passed down each generation,
Then social interaction must not be spurned.

Further questions

The last study done,
Of mother's, father's, grandma's,
Their speech to children.
Similar yet not,
Each forming their own manner,
Further questions form.
Investigations,
Modification functions,
We don't yet know why.
Curiosity,
We must grow our knowledge yet,
To know parentese.

Why I chose it

For weeks I could not find,
A study that fell into line,
Motherese made me interested,
Peer-reviews were limited,
So this paper I do not mind!

Reference:

B. Shute and K. Wheldall. 2010. 'How do grandmothers speak to their grandchildren? Fundamental frequency and temporal modifications in the speech of british grandmothers to their grandchildren.' Educational psychology (Dorchester-on-Thames), 2001-12-01, Vol.21 (4), p.493-503 DOI:10.1080/01443410120090858