

The Acquisition of Relativization by Jordanian Children


By:

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Abstract

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This study aims at investigating Jordanian children's acquisition of relative clauses in their mother tongue. The forms of relative clauses that were studied are those introduced by the relative pronouns *illi* and *il*. The sample of this study consisted of thirty Jordanian male and female children of different age groups chosen randomly from Adria Elementary School and Kindergarten in Irbid, Jordan.

Two tests were given, a production test and a comprehension one, in order to find out the factors that may influence the acquisition of relativization by these children.

The findings of both tests indicate that age is an important factor which plays a crucial role in the development of relativization acquisition, while sex appears to be statistically insignificant in this regard.

This study presents a detailed account of the acquisition of relativization by Jordanian children which may provide a better understanding of the steps Jordanian children go through until they become able to acquire different forms of relatives in an adult-like manner.