



Information

Discussion

The Acquisition of Word-final Clusters in French

Demuth, Katherine

Kehoe, Margaret

Abstract: The structure of French syllables has long been controversial, particularly with respect to the status of word-final consonants. Some researchers suggest that word-final consonants are syllabified as codas, whereas others propose that these are onsets of empty-headed syllables. This raises questions regarding the nature of syllabic representations in children's developing French, a topic that has received little attention. This study examines 2-year-olds' elicited productions of wordfinal obstruent-liquid (OL) clusters, and compares these with the acquisition of word-initial OL clusters. The acquisition of singleton word-final consonants is also discussed. Although wordfinal clusters are acquired later than both word-initial clusters and word-final singletons, the error patterns are the same, with earlier acquisition and preservation of obstruents. A few children exhibit final vowel epenthesis, raising the possibility that some French-speaking children may syllabify word-final consonants as onsets. The paper concludes with a discussion of the crosslinguistic implications of these findings, identifying several areas for further research.

Genre/form: Article

Keywords: Adquisició de la fonologia ; Estructura sil·làbica ; Grups consonàntics ; Phonological acquisition ; Syllable structure ; Clusters

Published in: *Catalan Journal of Linguistics*. Bellaterra : Servei de Publicacions de la Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona. V. 5 (2006) p. 59-81 ISSN 1695-6885



Record created 2006-11-08, last modified 2008-11-14

Similar records

Rate this document:

(Not yet reviewed)

Add to personal basket

Export as [BibTeX](#), [MARC](#), [MARCXML](#), [DC](#), [EndNote](#), [NLM](#), [Ref](#)

[METS](#)