

Human ecological system as a predictor for language development of preschoolers

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ABSTRACT

The study was conducted in the year of 2007 in different preschools of city Hisar which were selected purposively. The background picture of the respondents as depicted, majority of them belonged to nuclear family and majority of the fathers and mothers were engaged in service. Regarding education of parents, it was observed that most of the parents were post graduate. The relationship of the human ecological system with language abilities revealed that type of family, size of family parental relationship, parental occupation and influence of school, relationship with neighborhood, going for outings and involvement in social and religious activities were, highly correlated with language development of child.

Key words : Ecological system, Prediction, Variables.

Language is a tool for communication and required for interaction in a social group. Young children develop language skills through interactions with adults and in the environment. Baldwin (2002) explored one aspect of the home environment that appears relevant to language development and revealed that employed mothers emphasized verbal interactions more requiring that resulted to improvement in vocabulary.

Children who have had impoverished language experience in the early years are predictably less able to communicate their thoughts and feelings with others and the emergence of reading and writing skills may lag behind. For examples children who enter school with little or no knowledge of nursery rhymes or print awareness have been shown to be significantly behind other children in reading even through grade three (Soderman, 1999). According to Lennerberg (1964), the capacity of language depends neither on the intellectual faculties nor on the size of brain. Language acts a stimulus as well as response linguistic behaviour is a skilled behaviour and this skill is a developmental activity.

METHODOLOGY

The study was conducted in different preschools of city Hisar. Data were collected on a sample of 45 children in the age group of 2- 4years old which were selected purposively. The two types of variables, the independent and dependent. Independent variables included were sex, family type, size of family fathers' occupation, fathers' education; mothers'

occupation. Dependent variable was cognitive development of children. Ecological variables as micro, meso, exo-were served as independent variables. Reynell Language Developmental Scale (1985) was used to assess the different aspects of language development such as verbal comprehension and expressive language. Self structured interview schedule was used to assess the ecological variables. Frequency and percentage were calculated to get the background information of the respondents. The mean performance of the children on different aspects of language was found out. Correlation coefficient was calculated to see the relation between human ecological system and language development of children was applied to find out the significance of difference between the boys and girls.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Table1 shows the background picture of the respondents as depicted that majority of the children (70) belonged to nuclear family as far as parental occupation was concerned. Majority fathers (68%) and mothers (60%) were engaged in service. Regarding education of parents, it was observed that most of the parents, 46% fathers and 48% mothers were post graduate.

Relationship of language development of child with ecological factors:

All components of Reynell developmental language scale were significantly correlated with the type of family

Table 1 : Background information of children (N=50)		
Independent variables	Frequency	Percentage
Family type- Joint	10	20
Nuclear	35	70
Fathers' occupation		
Service	34	68
Business	11	22
Mothers' occupation		
Service	30	60
House wife	15	30
Fathers' education		
Matriculation	4	10
Graduate	18	36
Post graduate	23	46
Mothers' education		
Matriculation	7	14
Graduate	14	28
Post graduate	24	48

Table 2 : Correlation between human ecological system and language development of children		
Sr. No.	Variables	Correlation coefficient
	Micro	
1.	Type of Family	0.49*
	Size of family	0.44*
	Parental relationship	0.67*
	Meso	
	Parental occupation	0.46*
2.	Relationship with neighborhood	0.30
	Influence of school	0.71*
	Exo	
	Number of family friends	0.21
3.	Involvement in social and religious activities	0.45*
	Go for outings	0.43*

size of family, parental relationship (Table 2). Children vocabulary performance was found to be significantly related with the education of their mothers. In children of educated mothers had better language than their counterparts who had less educated mothers. This

revealed a positive association of language with the education of mothers.

There was positive association of father's educational status and vocabulary development of children. Educational status of parents was a crucial factors affecting the vocabulary of children. The significant association of father's occupation with vocabulary of child ($r= 0.46^*$). It clearly indicated that relationship with neighborhood and influence of school are related to language development of children. Exo-system had impact on vocabulary performance on all subscale of language of children. Parental education, occupation, income and living conditions all played a significant role (Table 2) in respondents intellectual development (Jehan *et al.*, 1980).

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