

## **Preliminary Study of the Phonological Development in Three and Four Year Old Bulgarian Children**

**Authors :** Tsvetomira Braynova, Miglena Simonska

**Abstract :** The article presents the results of research on phonological processes in three and four-year-old children. For the purpose of the study, an author's test was developed and conducted among 120 children. The study included three areas of research - at the level of words (96 words), at the level of sentence repetition (10 sentences) and at the level of generating own speech from a picture (15 pictures). The test also gives us additional information about the articulation errors of the assessed children. The main purpose of the study is to analyze all phonological processes that occur at this age in Bulgarian children and to identify which are typical and atypical for this age. The results show that the most common phonology errors that children make are: sound substitution, an elision of sound, metathesis of sound, elision of a syllable, and elision of consonants clustered in a syllable. All examined children were identified with the articulatory disorder from type bilabial lambdacism. Measuring the correlation between the average length of repeated speech and the average length of generated speech, the analysis proves that the more words a child can repeat in part "repeated speech," the more words they can be expected to generate in part "generating sentence." The results of this study show that the task of naming a word provides sufficient and representative information to assess the child's phonology.

**Keywords :** assessment, phonology, articulation, speech-language development

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