Understanding the Narrative Skills of Bilingual Adolescents with and without Developmental Language Disorder

Cecilia Perez, Elizabet D. Peña, Catherine Esparza, Erin Rodriguez

INTRODUCTION

Bilingual Adolescents’ Language Development

- Many studies have focused on children’s bilingual development, little is known about bilingual language development beyond middle school (Soto-Corominas et al., 2020).
- Research on oral language development in DLLs in either elementary or middle school is limited (Kralik et al., 2009; Saunders, 2016).
- Existing studies focus on vocabulary, reading, academic skills or global measures of proficiency, but not on individual and linguistic domains (such as morphosyntax) (Soto-Corominas, 2019).
- It is not clear how bilingual adolescents with OLD present.

Use of Narrative Tasks to Identify DLL in Bilinguals

- Nappo and colleagues (2014) used a narrative task to compare heresi with typical development (TD) and language disorders.
- The TD group outperformed the adolescents with OLD on several measures yield from narratives.

Will we find group differences in production of narrative measures in populations of adolescents who are bilingual?

METHODS

Participants

- Participants were recruited from a larger study on adolescents (n=138) with risk for DLL and mental health disorders. All participants with mental health disorders were excluded from the present study.

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<th>Group</th>
<th>n</th>
<th>M（SD）</th>
<th>Range</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>DLL</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>5.00 (2.00)</td>
<td>0.99-10.99</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TD</td>
<td>108</td>
<td>7.00 (2.00)</td>
<td>0.00-19.00</td>
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Measures

1. Diagnostic measures:
   - Inventory to Assess Language Knowledge (ITALK; Peña et al., 2018): a parent screener of children’s language skills in their L1 Spanish and L2 English.

2. Narrative measures:
   - Test of Narrative Language (Gillam et al., 2004): a standardized English narrative test, ages 5-11 yrs.
   - Oral Narrative (Production): a standardized English narrative test, ages 5-11 yrs.
   - Narrative Comprehension: a standardized English narrative test, ages 5-11 yrs.
   - Language Sample Analysis: a standardized English narrative test, ages 5-11 yrs.

RESULTS

There are differential effects for age of first exposure and current exposure to Spanish/English, observed in both the DLL and TD groups. Current exposure presents as the dominant correlation to performance in Spanish narrative measures and age of first exposure influencing performance in English measures.

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<td>7.00-23.00</td>
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<tr>
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<td>15.00 (2.00)</td>
<td>7.00-23.00</td>
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DISCUSSION

Future Research

- Adolescents with DLL, when presented with language tasks that are less structured, use compensatory strategies that make their language present like the language of their TD peers.
- The measures used for this study were not sensitive enough for this age group and warrants a deeper analysis of narrative mic.
- Adolescents with DLD, when presented with language tasks that are less structured, use compensatory strategies that make their language present like the language of their TD peers.

Future research should focus on running between language comparison.

References