

Development and Language Acquisition of 3-Year-Old Children

Helmi Seftiani¹, Arni Khumaeroh²

^{1,2}STKIP Darussalam Cilacap

e-mail: ¹helmiseftiani@gmail.com, ²lalaphawarnie@gmail.com

Abstract: This study aims to examine the development and acquisition of language in children aged 3 years. At this age, children show rapid progress in language skills, including the development of vocabulary, grammar, and the ability to communicate more effectively. This research uses a qualitative descriptive approach with direct observation of children aged 3 years in the family environment. The results of the study show that environmental factors, interactions with adults, and language stimulation play an important role in the language development of children aged 3 years. Children at this age begin to master more complex sentence structures, expand their vocabulary, and can communicate more fluently in social situations daily.

Keywords: Language Acquisition; Early childhood; Environment; Interaction

1. Introduction

Language is a vital communication tool for humans. Language skills enable humans to interact with their environment, share information, and build social relationships. Language will never be separated from every aspect of human life. Language is an important pawn for communicating with fellow humans. Without language, the communication process will be hampered and two-way interaction cannot occur. According to Koentjaraningrat (1992), language is part of culture, language and culture are interconnected with each other. According to KBBI, language is a series of sound symbols that many people like to use to work together, socialize and identify personalities. Based on this understanding, it can be concluded that language is a symbol of speech sounds which are then used to communicate and have an important function in social life. The period in which humans reach the highest level of processing is childhood. At this stage the human brain will experience the most rapid development. Usually lasts between the ages of zero and one year. According to Dardjowidjojo (2000), children's language acquisition skills usually come from when they naturally learn their mother tongue. This will continue to develop as they get older.

Child development language is a child's ability to speak politely, follow orders and respond to other people. This process can occur quickly and is often used as a foundation for the toddler's further development. The first language greatly influences the formation of a child's social identity. The requirement to become a member of society is to learn the

language. With notes during a child's language development, there is more focus on conversation than language form.

In children, language development is a complex and ongoing process. This process begins when children are born and develops gradually until they reach the adult stage. The age of 3 years is an important stage in a child's language development. At this age, children already have basic abilities in understanding and using language. They can understand simple instructions, use personal pronouns, and form simple sentences. Language development at this age is also very important for a child's readiness to enter formal education.

This article aims to discuss the development and acquisition of language in children aged 3 years. This article will examine how children in this age range master language and develop their communication skills. Apart from that, this article will also discuss factors that influence language development in children aged 3 years and provide several recommendations to help parents and educators in stimulating children's language development.

Previous research has shown that at this age, children begin to be able to master more complex sentence structures, expand their vocabulary, and understand the meaning of words in more depth. However, further research is still needed to understand in more detail the aspects of language development in children aged 3 years.

Theoretically, this research can increase knowledge about language acquisition in three-year-old children. Practically, this research is useful for parents too because children and parents will be able to talk to each other well. The child will feel close to both parents. This will help the child's psychological development.

2. Methods

This research uses a descriptive qualitative approach with observation methods. The research was conducted on 10 children aged 3 years. Data was collected through direct observation of children's interactions with parents and other family members, as well as interviews with parents to obtain information about children's language development. Observations were carried out for 3 months, focusing on children's use of language in various communication situations, such as playing, interacting with adults, and talking with peers.

3. Results and Discussion

Involves the first child, Muhamad Fattan, who is three years old and lives in Cinangsi, Gandrungmangu District, Cilacap Regency. The research subjects were near the house. researchers, making data collection easier. Indonesian is the first language used by research subjects.

The research results show that 3 year old children have a vocabulary ranging from 200 to 1,000 words. At this stage, they begin to use two-word sentences, such as "mama's gone" or "play ball," which reflects their understanding of language structure. The study also found that children were starting to be able to follow simple instructions, such as "get a toy" or "come here," indicating important cognitive development.

Observation results show that children aged 3 years are starting to show more mature language skills compared to previous ages. Some aspects observed include:

- 1) Vocabulary Increase: 3 year olds experience a significant increase in vocabulary. They begin to understand and use new words related to objects, activities, and feelings.
- 2) Use of Simple Sentences: Children begin to construct more complex sentences, even though sometimes the grammar used is still simple or imperfect.
- 3) Use of Pronouns and Conjunctions: Children have started to use personal pronouns (I, you) and simple conjunctions (and, or, because) in their sentences.
- 4) Understanding Context: Children aged 3 years can use language more appropriately according to the existing social and emotional context. They are able to express their needs and feelings in words.
- 5) Role of Parents and Environment: The main factor that influences a child's language development is interaction with parents and family members. Children who are often invited to communicate in various social situations tend to have better language development.

Language development in children aged 3 years is influenced by several factors, namely the family environment, social interactions, and language stimulation received. A warm and loving family environment can provide strong support for children's language development. Social interactions with parents, siblings, and peers can also help children develop their language skills. The language stimulation that children receive is also very important. Children who are often spoken to, read and sing songs will develop their language skills more quickly. Parents and educators can play an important role in providing adequate language stimulation for children.

Active social interaction is a key factor in language development. Children who often communicate with adults, such as parents and teachers, tend to have better language skills. Observations show that children who engage in active conversations and receive positive responses from adults show significant increases in vocabulary and speaking skills.

Stimulation through reading books, singing and role playing has also been proven to be effective in supporting language development. Storybooks, in particular, help children introduce new vocabulary and build their imagination. Additionally, games that involve language, such as word games and charades, help children in understanding language concepts more pleasantly. This activity not only improves vocabulary but also helps children in understanding sentence structure and appropriate use of language.

A supportive environment has a big influence on children's language skills. Children who live in environments with access to a variety of resources, such as libraries, community activities, and educational programs, show more rapid language development compared to children who have less exposure to verbal stimulation. Apart from that, emotional support from parents and teachers also plays an important role, because children who feel comfortable and empowered tend to be more active in communicating.

Based on the results of this research, it can be concluded that language development in children aged 3 years is an important process and requires special attention. Parents and educators need to provide adequate support for children's language development,

such as providing a conducive environment, providing quality social interactions, and providing adequate language stimulation.

4. Conclusion

Language development and acquisition in 3 year old children is greatly influenced by social interaction and environmental stimulation. Children who receive support from parents and educators in the form of active communication and a language-rich environment have better language skills. This research emphasizes the importance of creating an environment that supports language development, including through reading, playing and social interaction.

By understanding the factors that influence language acquisition, parents and educators can be more effective in helping their children develop optimally in language skills. Active involvement in the language learning process at an early age can have a significant positive impact on their future communication development. Therefore, it is important for parents to provide time and opportunities for children to interact and explore language in various contexts. With the right approach, children's language development can be maximally supported, paving the way for better communication skills in the future.

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