Language Analysis

For the language analysis, you will complete an observation of a child between 18 and 48 months old. You may chose from one of the recordings on the course website (under Language Analysis) or you may record and analyze your own or a friend's child's speech provided the child is between 18 and 48 months.

You will write a paper[1] on this child's phonological, morphological, syntactic, semantic, and pragmatic skills, defining what each of these means. You must include the Mean Length Utterance (MLU) and explain what it indicates. You will calculate the child's speech rate as well. For more details on how to do this, please see the "Child Language Analysis Checklist." Finally, you will give your overall impression of the child's language skills (normally developing, delayed, etc.), and justify your opinion with specific examples/calculations.

There are a series of tests available on the course website. You are welcome to use any of these that you find helpful though none are required.

You will be graded on the following rubric:

Transcription: _____/25
 • Included all information (see form 8.5 or the 100 utterance example) ____/5
 • Have at least 50 meaningful utterances _____/10
 • Accurately differentiated between child/adult utterances _____/10

Paper: _____/75
 • Defined all of the terms as using them (i.e., morphology, syntax, MLU, etc.) _____/10
 • Accurately calculated MLU & Speech Rate _____/20
 • Analysis of all forms of language and mention of their significance (if unable to analyze a particular aspect, must explain why) _____/20
 • Overall impression of language skills with justifications _____/20
 • Professionalism (i.e., spelling, grammar, clarity) _____/5

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[1] 5-7 pages double-spaced, 12 point serif font (i.e., Times New Roman, Garamond, Bookman Old Style, Cambria, etc.), 1 inch margins, printed and stapled.

mjohnson2@gc.cuny.edu