

A template for students to use to analyse a child language spoken text, considering language levels and theories. Stick your transcript in the space below. Would work best printed in A3.

What **stage** is the child speaker at? Pre verbal, holophrastic, two-word, telegraphic or post telegraphic?

How do you know and what are the implications?

Is their language ability ahead or behind the acquisition schedule? What evidence do you have for this?

Semantic ability

Are there any under or over extensions? If so, relate to Rescorla's findings.

Could you link to Aitchison's three stages of word acquisition?

Lexical ability

What is their range of vocabulary? Look at the different word classes used.

Relate to Nelson's first 50 words.

Phonological ability - how do they pronounce words?

Check for the realisation rules.

Do they make any other significant sounds?

Do they make any common phonological errors (e.g. substitution/deletion)?

Grammatical ability

How many words per utterance (MLU)?

Can they use different types of sentence?

Can they form questions and negatives (Bellugi and McNeill)?

Do any two-word utterances fulfil Brown's semantic roles?

Do they make any virtuous errors (relate to Wug test)?

Child Directed Speech

Is there an adult speaker? If so, do they follow any suggested features of CDS?

Pragmatic ability

How many of Halliday's Functions of speech are they able to use?

Are they able to demonstrate the imaginative functions (which normally comes last)?

Relate to the theories/concepts

What evidence is there to support or refute the general theories of CLA (imitation, innateness, social interaction, cognition and the usage based approach)?