

N-LARSP: Adaption of the LARSP profile chart to Norwegian

Hanne Gram Simonsen,^a Ingeborg Sophie Ribu,^a Morten Aase Løver, Bror-Magnus Sviland Strand,^b Kristian Emil Kristoffersen^c

^a *University of Oslo*, ^b *University of Tromsø – The Arctic University of Norway*, ^c *Frambu Center for Rare Disorders*

h.g.simonsen@iln.uio.no, i.s.b.ribu@psykologi.uio.no, ma.loever@gmail.com, bror-magnus.s.strand@uit.no, kristianemilk@gmail.com

Introduction

The Language Assessment Remediation and Screening Profile (LARSP) is a language specific screening chart, developed to assess a child's language skills and facilitate identification of specific language impairment (SLI) (Crystal, Fletcher and Garman, 1976). The chart can be used to assess child language development on word-, phrase- and clause level.

It is available in several languages, and soon also in Norwegian. In this talk we will outline how the Norwegian version of LARSP came to be, point to difficulties encountered in the construction of the chart, and look at similarities with and differences from other LARSP charts.

The LARSP profiles that already exist in other Germanic languages (English, German, Dutch and Frisian) (Ball, Crystal & Fletcher, 2012) are all quite different from each other, and cannot readily be translated to Norwegian and still give a comprehensive overview of the developmental stages of Norwegian child language acquisition.

Methodological approach

A preliminary profile chart was developed based on already existing data on Norwegian child language; from case studies (Simonsen, 1983; 1990) and through the use of CDI (Simonsen, Kristoffersen et al., 2014, Kristoffersen & Simonsen, 2012). This chart was later validated by collecting data from 32 children (16 boys and 16 girls) between the ages 1;0 and 5;6 years. Each child was recorded at home with a parent or close relative present, twice in a six-month period.

Data

100 consecutive utterances from each recording were transcribed. These recordings were used to validate the preliminary chart and to investigate different micro-profiles of Norwegian child language acquisition (with focus on relative clauses (Løver, 2015) and the use of root infinitives (Strand, 2015)).

Results

The Norwegian LARSP profile chart is similar in design to the Dutch GRAMAT chart (Bol & Kuiken, 1980), but it also includes a seventh level (ages 4;6 +) similar to the original LARSP chart (Crystal, Fletcher and Garman, 1976). Furthermore, the N-

LARSP chart differs from the English and the GRAMAT chart by the inclusion of a compounding column on word-level.

The N-LARSP profile chart will be a welcome tool for professionals working with assessment of children with SLI. The N-LARSP has a user-friendly design, making it easy to work with. Furthermore, as a research tool it will facilitate comparison across languages.

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