

Testing Swe-LARSP in the field

The Language Assessment, Remediation and Screening Procedure (LARSP) was developed by David Crystal, Paul Fletcher and Michael Garman in the 1970s and 1980s in order to offer an alternative perspective on language assessment, contrasting with standardized language tests (see e.g. (Crystal, 1982; Crystal, Fletcher, & Garman, 1981). LARSP aims at establishing a developmentally-oriented profile of the *use* of grammatical structures in language from authentic communicative tasks, such as conversations. In recent years, there has been a resurgence of adaptations of LARSP to various languages. The Swedish version (Swe-LARSP) was developed on the basis of existing studies and corpora of Swedish child language (Rosenberg & Mellenius, in press), but extensive field testing of the profile has not been carried out to date. Our study, in progress at the time of abstract preparation (and to be concluded in April of 2016), is a contribution to this process. We are pursuing the following research questions: How well can the grammar use of the typically developing, monolingual Swedish preschoolers recruited for our study be captured by Swe-LARSP? What role does individual variation play in a child's profile of grammar use? Can emergent structural features be distinguished from established ones? How user-friendly is the profile, both in terms of ease of administration, and interpretation of results?

We are collecting data from 18 children between the ages of 2;0 and 3;5, focusing on stages III, IV and V of Swe-LARSP. Typical language development at these ages, for monolingual Swedish children, is reasonably well-established in the literature. However, how the structural elements included in Swe-LARSP map onto actual, conversational language use, has not been thoroughly investigated, and it is likely that the procedure will need to be revised in light of field testing (Rosenberg & Mellenius, in press).

Crystal, D. (1982). *Profiling linguistic disability*. London: Edward Arnold.

Crystal, D., Fletcher, P., & Garman, M. (1981). *The grammatical analysis of language disability* (revised ed.). London: Edward Arnold.

Rosenberg, M., & Mellenius, I. (in press). Swe-LARSP: A grammatical profile of Swedish. In P. Fletcher, M. J. Ball & D. Crystal (eds.) *Profiling grammar: More languages of LARSP*. Clevedon, UK: Multilingual Matters (pp. 42-63).