

CHILDREN'S LINGUISTIC BEHAVIOR IN ADULTS-CHILDREN INTERACTIONS

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Abstract

A conversation in which children become one of the participants consists of several features that are almost similar to when adults talk to other adults, i.e. opening, turn-taking, and closing. One of the differences is in term of structure and complexity of utterances. However, this simplicity does not mean that children's utterances do not have an important role in the verbal exchanges with their interlocutors. A conversation involving children is simpler than that which involves adults only. In relation to this, this article presents the linguistic behavior of children when they are communicating with adults, especially on the structure of the conversations. The data were obtained through direct observation on the verbal exchanges that happen between a two-year-old child and some people around him. The results show that in turn-taking, adjacency pairs, especially question-answer, and correction, which is mostly done by the child himself, are present. Others are not present yet due to the fact that the child is still in the process of acquiring conversational skills.

Keywords: children's linguistic behavior, conversation, turn-taking