Play – Database Description

Database	Context	Age Range	Grade in School	# Samples	Location	Special Coding
Play	**Play**	**2;8 – 5;8**	**P, K**	**69**	**WI**	**SI**

Participants

Typically developing participants, ranging in age from 2;8 - 5;8, were drawn from preschools in Madison and kindergarten classrooms in the Madison Metropolitan School District. The speakers, whose primary language is English, came from a variety of economic backgrounds and ability levels. "Typically developing" was determined by normal progress in school and absence of special education services. Economic background was determined by eligibility for the free lunch program. Ability level was determined by teacher rating. Age, gender, and grade data is available for all participants.

Sample Elicitation

The database samples were elicited with an examiner engaged in play with the target speaker.

Refer to the elicitation protocol for details.

Transcription Notes

Utterances were segmented into Communication Units (C-Units) as defined in the SALT documentation. All transcripts were timed, and pauses, within and between utterances, of two or more seconds in length, were marked.

Coding Notes

- [EO:word] marks overgeneralization error
- [EP:word] marks pronoun error
- [EW] marks an extraneous or unnecessary word in the utterance that, if omitted, would make the utterance syntactically correct, e.g., C And he shout/ed and[EW] to the frog.
- [EW:word] marks other word-level error
- [EU] marks utterance-level error (*utterances with 3 or more errors*)
- [FP] marks filled pause words such as *like*, e.g., *You (like[FP]) get six card/s.*

Subordination Index (SI) Coding

All transcripts were hand-coded and scored for Subordination Index (SI) as defined in the SALT documentation.

SI is a measure of syntactic complexity that produces a ratio of the total number of clauses (main and

subordinate) to the number of C-Units. A clause, whether it is main or subordinate, is a statement containing both a subject and a predicate. Grammatically, a subject is a noun phrase and a predicate is a verb phrase. Main clauses can stand by themselves. Subordinate clauses depend on the main clause to make sense. They are embedded within an utterance as noun, adjective or adverbial clauses.

Using SALT to Compare Transcripts to the Play Database

Use SALT's Database menu to compare your transcript with age or grade-matched transcripts selected from the Play database. SALT looks at the plus lines in your transcript to determine which database to pre-select. To pre-select the Play database, include the following plus lines in your transcript.

> \+ Language: English
> \+ Context: Play

Although you can type these plus lines into your transcript, the easiest way is to select the correct language (English), sampling context (Play), when first creating a new transcript using the New Transcript Header information dialogue box in the software.

Acknowledgements