

**A STUDY OF THE SYNTACTIC PATTERNS  
AND LANGUAGE FUNCTIONS OF  
A TWO - YEAR - OLD INDONESIAN CHILD**

**A THESIS**

**In Partial Fulfillment of the Requirements  
for the Sarjana Pendidikan Degree in  
English Language Teaching**



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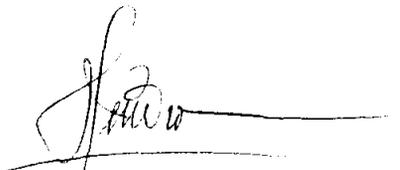
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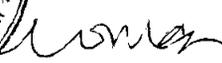
  
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## ABSTRACT

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Keywords: kinds of sentences, syntactic patterns, and language functions.

Child's learning language is a fascinating matter to be observed all the time. The way a child constructs a sentence always makes anybody around him/her curious. There are so many observations deal with this matter that create child language acquisition theories. However, the writer notices there are such still a few linguists observing/studying Indonesian children. Nevertheless, linguistic theories are universal in which any observers are able to apply them to any children although there are some differences. Based on that reason, the writer carried out an Indonesian child observation in acquiring her language.

This study concerns with the production of utterances as uttered by a two-year-old Indonesian child and the language functions which are reflected in the utterances.

The data of this study which was collected with a tape recorder and a diary were transcribed and analyzed under the parameters of kinds of sentences, the syntactic patterns, and language functions in the subject's one-word utterances, two-word utterances, three-word utterances, and more-than-three-word utterances.

This study is a case study since the writer only analyzed one Indonesian child to find out the kinds of sentences, the syntactic patterns, and the language functions that were produced in the subject's one-word utterances, two-word utterances, three-word utterances, and more-than-three-word utterances.

After analyzing the data, the writer found that the subject only produced the headword in her one-word utterances. Meanwhile, in two-word utterances, the subject practised the pivotal structure in which her pattern was Pivot + Open. In this case her pivot words was the function words and her open words were the content words. Apart from that, the subject had been able to produce sentences which consists of subject, predicate, and object in her three-word utterances. She had already produced more-than-three-word utterances which came to resemble adult language.

Generally, the produced sentences were various. They are simple affirmative statements, negative statements, interrogative statements, and imperative statements. Even in the production of three-word utterances, the subject of the study began to produce passive statements although the form was not perfect.

The produced utterances reflect language functions. In the subject's one-word utterances, they imply only three kinds of language functions, i.e. informational, expressive, and directive. Starting from two-word utterances until the subject was able to produce more-than-three-word utterances, the language she produced began to reflect a phatic function. What is interesting to notice is that her utterances may also reflect two functions at the same time.

Finally, this study is intended to give a contribution to Psycholinguistics and further observation dealing with Indonesian child's language development.