Abstract

PURPOSE: to become familiar with the way children acquire the phonetic-phonological system in their maternal language and to describe the chronology of the acquisition sequence related to the phonetic-phonological repertoire in the sample. METHODS: the sample was composed of 72 individuals divided into six age groups of six months each. The "Questionnaire for Evaluating Child Phonology" (QECP) was applied in order to evaluate articulation of vowels in every position by means of a naming task. The results for each age group were compared in every segment in order to observe the acquisition sequence of sounds in every subject. RESULTS: It was observed that the general performance of vowels showed an increase in the percentage of normal rendering in relation to the increase in age of the subjects. The phonemes /f/-/s/-/x/ and the group of liquids /l/-/lh/-/r/ were the segments that showed the highest articulatory difficulty. Nasals /m/-/n/-/nh/ and voiceless non continuous /p/-/t/-/tch/-/k/ were the segments that had the highest percentage of normal articulation. CONCLUSIONS: at the age of 3, the subjects have over 80% of normal consonant articulation. The biggest acquisition difficulties were shown by fricative consonants /s/ and /x/, and, particularly, the consonant /r/. On the contrary, the consonants showing the lowest acquisition difficulty were the nasal and occlusive consonants.

Keywords