An Analysis of Form

SED 260

Cheryl Harney

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Summary Statement

I did an analysis on form on a spontaneous language sample from Morgan, a 4 year 11 month girl. I analyzed the clause structure that Morgan used, looked at the grammatical morphemes and question forms used. I found that Morgan is a late stage four or early stage five (Roger Brown). The majority of Morgan’s clauses are transitive followed by intransitive, then equative. Morgan is fairly consistent in her use of grammatical morphemes. Morgan shows many instances of answering w/h questions but does not do the asking in this sample; perhaps this was caused by camera shyness. Morgan’s phonological process is normal. She shows a few areas of phonological development, however not enough with which to be concerned. Morgan’s language sample reveals that she is linguistically ready for a successful kindergarten year.
In support of Roger Brown late stage 4, Morgan uses many compound sentences. For example, she uses compound sentence structure in utterance#14 and #37.

...everybody loves me and uh, I love everybody, too.

Go sit down and then we go...to...eat in the school.

She uses pronouns in utterances #10 and 43.

Um...I love her

Then we draw our numbers and then count.

In support of Roger Brown early development of stage 5 Morgan uses clauses. For example, she uses relative clauses in utterance #50 and #53.

...they have a place [where you can play toads, art center and computer and kitchen].

Kitchen, computer, and blocks and where you can play, um, everything [that I just told you was my favorite] that I like to play in school.

She uses a reflexive pronoun in utterance 96.

...I didn’t want him to hurt hiself (sic).

She uses “if” in utterance #65 and 69.

You pick someone if you don’t want to be the caboose...

Yeh, if I want to but I don’t...

She uses “because” in utterance #84.

Because I get suckers all the time there.
Phonological process

Morgan drops the “g” in eating in utterance #2, but this may be a local pronunciation as opposed to a syllable structure change.

Eatin’ poptarts.

She starts to produce an assimilation in utterance #5, but corrects herself.

Sto...Toaster Strudel.

She uses fronting in utterance #13

Cause she doves me